

Annagh
2007

Christmas Greetings

I would like to take this opportunity of congratulating the editorial board and all associated with Annagh Magazine on their 30th production. When the first issue came out in 1978, it was warmly welcomed by Ballyhaunis people both at home and abroad. Since then it has appeared every December and now, thirty years later, we welcome the current edition and are still as excited about its appearance this year as they were way back in 1978.

Once again, I am happy to avail of the pages of Annagh Magazine to wish all parishioners of the parish of Annagh, both at home and abroad, a very Happy Christmas and every blessing in the New Year. Some of you will be home for Christmas, home to share the happiness of Christmas and the comforts of home with family and friends. Others will be away, faraway from home and family, but wherever you are we assure you that you are not forgotten and will be very much part of our Christmas Masses. We must not forget either that Ballyhaunis is now a multicultural town with many different nationalities living here. They too will be away from their homes and native countries this Christmas, and we must remember them and include them in our Christmas celebrations.



On behalf of Fr. Burke and myself, I wish you all a very happy Christmas and every blessing in 2008 and may the child of Bethlehem bless you and keep you safe.

Joseph Leoney



Summer Festival, watching the Fireworks from near the Railway Bridge

L-R: Michelle Lenehan, Eilish Egan, Aisling Waldron, Lisa Jordan, Conor Dooley.

Disclaimer

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Editorial

Annagh Magazine is going into its 30th edition this year – the first was published in 1978. This is a great achievement for a parish production, all made possible by the contributors who have supplied articles, poems and stories as well as hundreds of photographs, new and old. These are specially enjoyed by people who have gone abroad to Britain, the USA or other countries and who look forward to the book every Christmas. Please keep up the good work. In endeavouring to keep up with new technology, work is currently underway to make the first editions of Annagh available on-line on the website www.annagh.com.

This year the cover shows a fine aerial view of the town, including the many new estates that have sprouted on all sides of the town. The bulk of the children in the schools are now coming from these growth areas. Living “above the shop” is no longer an option. Forty years ago five families in Clare St. had thirty-eight children playing in the street – the Curleys, Levins, Grogans, Griffins and Byrnes. Now there are exactly two children there. The same is true of Main St., Knox St., Bridge St., and Abbey St. Times change and things move on.

We wish to express our gratitude to so many loyal supporters; to our sponsors who help us each year with our costs, to you the public who buy the magazine. Unfortunately, costs are rising. We decided last year to put the modern photographs in colour and this has enhanced the appearance of the publication. This was seen to be popular last year and so we continue it.

If you wish to contribute an article or photograph for next year’s magazine you can contact Annagh by email at annaghmag@eircom.net or visit our website www.annagh.com.

Finally, may we wish everybody at home and overseas a very Happy Christmas and New Year. Nollaig faoi shéan is faoi mhaise díbh go leir.

Committee members

Joe Keane, Maura Griffin, Jim London, Maisín Meath, John Halpin, Seamus Mulrennan, Sinead Freyne, Paul Waldron, Martin Forde, Michael Finn, Eimear Hill (BCS representative). Typesetting: Mary Donnelly.



St. Mary's Boys N.S., 1948-49.

Back, L-R: Tony Greene, Joe Mannion, Mike Fleming, Vincent Freyne, Seamus Mason, Patrick Freeley, Dominick Mulcahy, Sean Ruane. Middle, L-R: Tom Ruane, ___ Murphy, Kieran Benson, ___ Daly, John Connolly, Paddy Fitzmaurice, Mike Biesty, Emmett Keane. Front, L-R: John Morley, Liam Hanmore, Maxie O'Shea, Liam Baker, Teddie McMorrow, Hugh Curley.



***Taken at the signal box,
Ballyhaunis railway station, early seventies.***

*Helen Thomas, Eavan Webb, Aisling Webb,
Marita Webb, Ronan Thomas.*



Cousins on holidays

Back, L-R: Ronan Thomas, Marita Webb, Helen Thomas, Aisling Webb. Front, L-R: Joseph Webb, Eavan Webb. Ronan and Helen are children of Monica Thomas (nee Byrne, Bridge St.)



Group photograph taken at wedding of Michael Connell (Redford) and Mary Brady, in Manchester, 1950.

Back, L-R: Peter Connell, John Connell, Pat Connell, Mary and Michael Connell, Jim Connell, Anthony Connell, Tom Finnegan (Killinaugher). Front, L-R: Tom Connell, Joe Connell, Josie McDonald, Kathleen O'Malley, John O'Malley.

Ballyhaunis News Review 2007

November 2006

Mayo County Council begin work on drawing up the Ballyhaunis Local Area Development Plan. Ballyhaunis Chamber sets up a sub-committee to work on the priorities for the Ballyhaunis Local Area Plan... Emily Worden, Derrynacong qualified for the World Irish Dancing championships in Glasgow 2007. She is a pupil of the Elwood school of Irish dancing and came third in the Under-13 age group at the Oireachtas Rince Chonnachta held in Castlebar... The Friends of the Friary collect a Petition of over 2,700 names to prevent the removal of pews from the Friary Church, and to demonstrate fully the strength of local feeling towards the Friary, so that its preservation as a functioning church into the future will be assured... Sister Lelia (Mai) Waldron (88), native of Carrowkeel, Ballyhaunis, died in Liverpool. She entered the Augustinian order in 1949 and spent most of her 57 years in religious life as a nurse and midwife in Liverpool... The Department of the Taoiseach announced a grant of €10,600 to the Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre under the government's ASC Initiative.

December 2006

Ballyhaunis Training Centre celebrates its fortieth anniversary and holds their Annual Christmas Mass on 4th December 2006 for the Intentions of all Families and Friends of members, and to remember the late Sean Phillips... "Annagh 2006" hits the shelves. This year's magazine - the first ever in full colour - retails at €8... The Fourth Ballyhaunis Art Exhibition took place in St. Mary's Abbey, (The Friary) from December 1st-7th... The official "Switch-On" of Ballyhaunis Christmas Lights 2006 took place on Sunday 3rd December... A meeting of Neighbourhood Watch / Community Council's initiative took place on 6th December 2006 in the Parochial Hall... Brookvale Manor Private Nursing Home, Ballyhaunis, wins the award for "Best Customer Service in the Services Sector"... At the same Awards, Local Business Promotions, Ballyhaunis, receives a highly commended rating as a Finalist in the "Best New Business Award". Both are prestigious awards in The Mayo Business Awards 2006, sponsored by The Mayo News, and organised by the Chambers of Commerce in Mayo... Students from Ballyhaunis Community School and Gerry Glennon team up once again for this year's Christmas Carol Service in St. Patrick's Church. MidWest Radio record the Carol Service for broadcast on Christmas Day... Mayo Fianna Fáil TD, John Carty makes announcement that Ballyhaunis Community School will receive €43,000 from Technology grant to purchase equipment to help prepare them for their four new technology subjects to be introduced next year... Great sadness occasioned by the sudden death of Barry Butler. Barry was a manager in a local accountancy firm and was involved in many community projects... Ballyhaunis Community School Class of 1991-96 held their ten year reunion in Fitzner's Bar, Knox St., on Wed. 27th Dec. Later that week, the Class of 1986 held their twenty-year Reunion in the Billabong on Friday, December 29th.

2007

January

In a thought-provoking homily on the last day of 2006, Canon Joe Cooney invited his congregation 'to take a look at our families, how we live as families'. On the Feast of the Holy Family, Canon Cooney urged families to have more of a central role in the education of their children in terms of handing on the faith... Mayo senior footballers David Heaney and Keith Higgins were special guests at a medal presentation ceremony in the Parochial Hall for the Ballyhaunis Under 14 Gaelic footballers who won the treble in 2006... Patricia Waldron and Maureen Hunt win the AIB Bank Cup at Ballyhaunis Bridge Club... Scoil Íosa primary school wins one of the top awards in the Mayo County Councils' Cleaner Community Campaign competition... Pamela Heaney is one of 12 finalists in the prestigious Persil Irish Fashion Awards competition for 2007. She is daughter of Patricia and Jarlath Heaney, Lecarrow... Cathaoirleach of Mayo

County Council, Mr. Gerry Coyle officially launches the V.E.C.'s Adult Learning Services at the Augustinian Abbey... At their first meeting of the new year, Ballyhaunis Chamber President John Dillon-Leetch pays tribute to former treasurer, Barry Butler, who sadly passed to his eternal reward on December 7th... Winners of the Ballyhaunis Christmas Lights Draw were announced: 1st prize of a Hamper was Joseph Byrne, Johnstown; 2nd prize of a Teddy Bear was Anne Byrne, Knock; 3rd prize of a meal for two was John McNamara... Ballyhaunis Dramatic Society start rehearsing the William Rocke play called "Family Affairs".

February

The month starts on a bright note for Ballyhaunis Neighbourhood Watch when their organisation is awarded Government funding to the tune of €15,000... Community Council launch the eagerly awaited 'Community Futures Action Plan 2007-2010'. The project is launched by Gerry Glennon of MWR... Aisling Drive wins the award for Mayo's Tidiest Estate in a competition run by Mayo County Council... Up and coming motor rally enthusiast Tadhg Buckley wins the Fiesta Sporting Trophy at Galway Rally... Local organisation Friends of Croí host a very successful 'Healthy Heart Day' in the Parochial Hall... Chamber executive members meet with Fine Gael leader Enda Kenny to discuss priorities for Ballyhaunis... Eddie Murphy's Menswear hosts of the 'BAH' (Business After Hours) series in Ballyhaunis... Ballyhaunis & District Credit Union held their annual N.S. quiz in the Parochial Hall with 29 teams taking part... The Saturday Art Club starts in the Friary House, St. Mary's Augustinian Abbey on Saturday mornings. It's open to all school children aged 6 years and upwards... Croí host a "Health Heart Day" in the Parochial Hall on February 21st.

March

Well known GAA broadcaster Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh is a special guest of Ballyhaunis GAA Club at a reception in Golf Club... GAA Club chairman Donal Moran announces details of a €600,000 development project for the local club, to commence at the end of the year... First Polish priest takes up duty at Knock Shrine... Preparations begin for the May Weekend Festival... Paddy Joe Fahy, of the Ivy House, Ballyveale, celebrates 80th birthday... Ballyhaunis Community School students win All-Ireland Irish Quiz at Dublin's Aislín Hotel. The winning team members were Niall Hynes, Sharon Hensey, Sharon Nolan and Sean O'Rourke... Ballyhaunis GAA Club stalwart Johnny Biesty is honoured by a special presentation at Croke Park on St. Patrick's Day at the interval of the All-Ireland Club Final. Johnny received his award for 50 years of service to the organisation... Eddie Cleary wins Gold at the Connaught Boxing Championships... Meanwhile, Ballyhaunis native David Conlon from Abbey Street beats off very stiff opposition to win the Gold medal at the Fire Service Olympic Games in Adelaide, Australia. Son of Michael and Geraldine, Abbey Street, David is serving with an Garda Síochána in Cavan... Ballyhaunis Drama players present 'Family Affairs' in the Parochial Hall. Cast members are: Noreen Freyne, Noel Sloyan, Adrian Murray, Katrina Sweeney, Austin Finn and William Nestor. Producer is Pat Doyle... Stephen Ryan's team defeats Stephen Nolan's team in the Final of the Vincent Caulfield Cup played in Scoil Íosa NS.

April

Eddie Cleary goes on to win All-Ireland Boxing medal in Dublin... MWR broadcaster Gerry Glennon gives a very interesting talk to sixth class pupils in Scoil Íosa on the subject of the Pioneer Movement... Rochford Motors obtain agency for new SEAT motor cars... More success for Ballyhaunis Community School as they win the Regional Award in the Mission Alive competition... Emmett Keaney's team of 11 wins the Winter League at Ballyhaunis Golf Club. Team members with Emmett were John Burke, Margaret Dyer, Ivan Freeley, David Hannan, Aiden Hope, Michael Mahony, John Moran, Mick Regan, Christy Nicholson and Diarmuid Finnegan... Seamus Flanagan, a native of Coolnaha, receives Hall of Fame from Bord na gCon (Greyhound Racing Board). Seamus is brother of the late

Ballyhaunis News Review 2007 *continued...*

Kevin and Sean Flanagan... Olwyn Murray, Upper Main St., wins 3 first places in this year's Musical Ballina Feis...her sister Niamh comes first at the Scór na bPáistí East Mayo Final in the recitation section... As part of National Spring Clean Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns organises a local area clean-up in Ballyhaunis and its environs on 23rd April... Jarlath Carney and James Cribbin, both pupils of Scoil Íosa, were on the U-12 Roscommon Soccer Team that won the Holiday World Cup Competition in Liverpool... Eddie Cleary, son of David and Margaret Cleary, Cherryfield, wins the All Ireland 66 kilos Boxing Championship in the National Stadium in Dublin.

May

The Ballyhaunis International Festival, held 3rd to 7th May is, once again, a great success... Siobhan McNulty, Granlahan, is the Annagh Rose 2007...Ballyhaunis Fun Walk and Run in conjunction with Ballyhaunis A.B.C. (Aid For Belarussian Children) was held on 7th May... Delaney's Hardware enters a new phase in their successful business history when they open new retail outlet on the New Road... Anne Cunnane is appointed CEO of Ballyhaunis Chamber. Anne takes over the position held by Donal Shanaghy for the past two years... Ballyhaunis Community School footballers win Connacht Football title. Team mentors are Hugh Rudden and David McDonagh... In the May General Election, John Carty loses his seat but is later elected to the Senate. On election day, the oldest voter in Ballyhaunis is long-time FF supporter Johnny Mullen at the tender age of 101 years... Great sadness was occasioned following the untimely death of Seamus Comer, Larganboy. Seamus was a past president of Ballyhaunis A.B.C.

June

Glowing tributes are paid to Nell Rochford on her retirement from Cloonbonniffe Primary School. Nell, wife of the late Billy Rochford, served at the County Roscommon school for over three decades... New Cemetery Committee elected. They are - Chairman: John Halpin, Secretary: Helen Waldron, Treasurers: Walter Cleary and Tom Finn... Large crowd attend Corpus Christi Procession in glorious sunshine on Sunday, June 10th... Johnny Burke wins Captain's (Tom McGuire) Prize at the Golf Club... Caitriona Biesty from Pattenspark graduates as one of the first students of Our Lady's School of Evangelisation at Knock. Caitriona is daughter of Joan and Austin Biesty, Pattenspark... Pastoral Council members are elected for new term, they are - President: Canon Cooney, Chairman: John Mooney, Secretary: Kay Curley, PRO: Michael Goulding, Committee: Patricia Plunkett, Fr. Kieran Burke, Jimmy Donnelly, Maire Brennan, Christina Concannon and William Nestor (Jnr)... New Counselling Services launched at the Friary... James Kilbane and Brian Flanagan entertain a packed audience at a Gospel Concert in the Friary in support of the forthcoming Medugorje Youth Pilgrimage... Class members of St. Joseph's Convent of 1957 enjoy a class reunion at Knock House Hotel. Those in attendance from the Class of 1957 were Imelda Melly, Mary McGuire, Sr. Geraldine Costello, Helen Hoban, Kathleen McBride, Catherine Biesty, Sr. Mary Teresa Ruane, Carmel Johnston, Carmel Hunt, Dorothy Morley and Ann Hunter. The celebrations begin with Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Kieran Burke, CC. Celebration is attended by Class of '57 teachers, Sr. Assumpta, Sr. Oliver and Sr. Ignatius... Gearoid Keane captains Ballyhaunis Under 14's to win the County Hurling title... Thirteen years old Eoghan Collins from Abbeyquarter scores a Hole-in-one at Ballyhaunis Golf Club... Enda Caulfield is elected President of Ballyhaunis Chamber. Tom Forde is Vice-President... Terry Coleman and Vincent Healy retire from Ballyhaunis Community School.

July

Mayo Ladies footballers Cora Staunton and Yvonne Byrne parade the National Football League trophy at Scoil Íosa. They are accompanied by team manager, Frank Browne... David Hannan wins Jack O'Connor Memorial trophy at Golf Club... Lech Walesa former Polish President visits Knock Shrine... Mick and Mary Murray retire as Directors of Connaught Scaffolding after 30 years of great service and success... 'Hero's Square' wins the feature event at Fairyhouse Racecourse for her owner, Rosaleen Curley from Derrymore... Forty-

two students from Ballyhaunis School depart for Medugorje in Bosnia/Herzegovina for the 17th International Youth Festival. Over 40,000 youngsters from all over the world attend the 10 day festival... Seamus and Angela Cribbin from Drimbane celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary... Tommy Grogan's Kilmannin wins one of the feature races at Listowel races... Irish choral ensemble 'Resurgam' perform in the Friary Church on 7th July as part of this year's annual Summer Music Series... Ten children returned to Belarus on Saturday 21st July after a month's stay in Ballyhaunis and the surrounding areas. Their holiday was organised by Ballyhaunis A.B.C. (Aid For Belarussian Children).

August

After one of the wettest summers on record, the sun shone on this year's Abbey Pattern, which was held on Sunday 26th August and was a tremendous success... David Connolly from Lecarrow was the toast of his family and community when he received a gold medal at University of Limerick. Son of Kieran and the late Mary Connolly, Lecarrow, David achieved the highest academic award at the college and also obtained a four year bursary to study his Ph.D. at the Limerick university... Good news for Ballyhaunis in the Litter Action League, having won the July round it is now at the top of the League table with Charlestown at 10 points each... Olga Grybiene opens her new clothes alteration service on Clare Street.

September

Edward Mulhern and John Kilduff retire from Ballyhaunis Fire Brigade after many years of sterling service. Edward, who assumed the role of Fire Chief following the retirement three years ago of Sean Freyne, served the Fire Fighting Service for 30 years while John had operated with the local unit for 24 years... County Kildare native Úna Nolan is appointed Assistant Director of Music at Knock Shrine... 50 Burmese refugees arrive in Ballyhaunis where they will receive 8 weeks training at a newly built Refugee Training Centre at Clare Road... 'Automaniacs Club' founded for young car enthusiasts... Ballyhaunis Garda Station opening hours extended in the evening from 8 pm to 9 pm... Sergeant Martin McDermott wins the Feeney Brothers sponsored Trophy at Ballyhaunis Golf Club... New sports complex project launched at GAA Grounds. The plan includes new dressing rooms and meeting facilities. President of the Mayo County Board and former club chairman, Mr. Hugh Rudden performs the official turning of the sod...Caulfield's of Upper Main St. open new Gud2Go deli and takeaway... Active Retirement Group enjoy weekend at Scotland... Ballyhaunis Garda Station extends opening hours to the public from 8 to 9.00pm each evening from Monday to Saturday inclusive.

October

Mick Hopkins from Island and John Kelly from Lissaniska, Beken were the centre of attention at a special afternoon of music, song and recitation at Knock Folk Museum for the launch of a CD and booklet entitled 'Planscáí Bhéacáin'. The CD features Mick performing some of his most famous recitations while John, now in his 93rd year, performs a selection of songs from his repertoire... Maureen Towey, Larganboy, obtains her license to operate as a Travel Agent. Maureen has commenced her business operation at Dillon's Travel on Main Street, across from the Parish Church... New Refugee Training Centre opens in Clare St. and the first intake of 52 Burmese refugees arrives... Public meeting held in the Parochial Hall on 3rd Oct. in connection with Mayo County Council's preparation of a draft Local area plan for Ballyhaunis town... Mary Costello, Tonragee wins First Prize in the Connacht Gold Summer promotion draw... Ballyhaunis was awarded 216 marks out of a total of 400 in the National Tidy Towns Competition 2007, an increase of 10 marks on last year. Adjudication took place on 26th June.

Ballyhaunis and the Blizzard of 1947...

If climate change is well and truly with us, heavy snowfall of blizzard like conditions will not be a common sight in Ireland in the coming decades and centuries ahead. And indeed if this is so, the weather conditions endured by those who were around in the spring of 1947 might never be seen in this country again.

As part of my search for information on “the big snow”, I went to the Local History and Genealogy Department of Mayo County Library in Castlebar where I viewed the files of the *Western People* and the *Connaught Telegraph* newspapers of February and March 1947. Another wonderful record I consulted were notes from the hand of legendary Ballyhaunis man Michael F. Waldron B.A., L.L.D., Knox Street, who for many years recorded events in the life of Ballyhaunis in his journal entitled “Brief personal notes on parochial and other passing events”, which he left behind as part of his work for the Ballyhaunis Literary, Historical and Archaeological Society. I also re-read many past editions of our own *Annagh Magazine* where many tales of the blizzard had been shared previously by locals. Finally, I spoke to Alice Lyons of Clare Street, who had more reason than many to remember this period in time.

Firstly to the newspaper archives. In the *Western People* of 22nd February 1947, the Claremorris correspondent, whose area included Ballyhaunis, reported “Severely cold weather, with heavy frost at night, continues where, due to the frozen conditions of the soil, all ploughing and spring operations have been held up”. Further in his article he states, “Snow fell in Claremorris, Ballinrobe and Ballyhaunis early this morning. It was of a short duration, and was followed by a brief spell of sunshine. Towards evening it became dark again. Frost continues, and more snow is likely. Farmers are telling the reporter that if present weather continues much longer it will hold the spring sowing back, with the result that crops will be late, possibly of a poor quality and scarce”

According to entries in Michael F. Waldron’s journal, the signs of a spring in Ballyhaunis lay ahead.

January 6th – “Violent storm last night”.

February 2nd – “Stormy all day yesterday; blizzard and snowdrifts last night”.

February 24th (Monday) – “Intense frost continuing; heavy snowfall last night”.

February 25th (Tuesday) – “Blizzard last night and this morning; snow 2 feet, no market”.

February 26th (Wednesday) – “Arctic weather, town snowbound, supplies cut off; transport nil”.

A notice in the *Connaught Telegraph* dated 1st and 8th March stated - “owing to the breakdown of electricity supplies following the snow storm, we were unable to go to press last weekend. It was the first time in our existence, 119 years, that this has happened”. Elsewhere in the County - “The blizzard started on Monday night and on Tuesday morning snow to a depth of 2 feet had fallen, and in many places there were snow drifts varying in depth from 6 to 8 feet. Each night there was severe frost, and this made the task of clearing the roads a difficult one”. The paper continues its news coverage and reports on the situation in Ballyhaunis. “Monday (3rd March), a depth of 3 feet of snow still remains on the streets of Ballyhaunis, and though county council workers are engaged in clearing the Ballyhaunis – Claremorris, Ballyhaunis – Ballinlough roads, it is thought that transport, by road at any rate, will be held up for a further 48 hours. The people of Ballyhaunis and particularly the poor of the town, who were without turf or fuel of any description, have suffered very much indeed”.

“Very Rev. Chancellor Prendergast P.P, V.G., the members of the local St. Vincent de Paul Society and other bodies have laboured diligently over the past ten days endeavouring to procure fuel and in superintending its distribution to those in need. The ESB current has been cut off since Tuesday, and so far has not been

restored. Milk vendors from the villages of Lecarrow, Hazelhill and Foxhill were snow-bound, and there was no distribution of milk in Ballyhaunis until late on Wednesday, when one vendor managed to get through with a small supply on an improvised sleigh. Bread supplies were held up, and this resulted in a general rush for flour. However, a consignment of bread arrived from Dublin on Friday morning and upwards of 400 people managed to obtain supplies”.

Felling of trees

“Chancellor Prendergast presided at a meeting of the townspeople, held in the Parochial Hall on Monday evening for the purpose of devising ways and means of procuring fuel for the poor and of speeding up its delivery and distribution. Members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society informed the meeting that ten loads of turf had been procured and that it was expected delivery would be effected within two days. Two people present kindly authorised the felling of trees on their lands for firewood, and volunteers immediately left the meeting to proceed to cut down the timber and supervise its distribution. Chancellor Prendergast made a personal order that food to the value of £10 be purchased and distributed to the more needy cases”.

“The absence of civic spirit has been painfully evident in the town over the past week, and little or no effort has been made on the part of the townspeople to clear the snow off the streets. Even if householders cleared the space immediately in front of their own premises some headway would be made. But this has not been done except in the case of one man, Mr. Paddy Smyth, who cleared a stretch of about twenty yards in front of his house. His example however brought forth little or no response; the snow still remains on the streets, making transport, even from one end of the town to the other, an impossibility. “No accidents have occurred in the vicinity of Ballyhaunis. Telephone communication is completely disrupted and it may be some considerable time before services are restored in the area”.

Arctic conditions continues

An ex-resident of Ballyhaunis Tony Boyle, writing in the *Annagh Magazine* of 1997, remembers Ballyhaunis being completely isolated from 25th February to 1st March, with no electricity, telephone, water or newspapers for 4 days. “There were drifts of snow over 6 feet high on the roads in the town and leading into the town and the severe frost which followed ensured that the snow remained on the ground for weeks – in some cases right up to May. I remember well, on Saturday morning, getting 5 days of papers plus the *Western People* in Joe Flatley’s on the Saturday morning (March 1st)”. Michael F. Waldron bears this up with an entry in his journal of March 15th “Arctic conditions continue, blizzard last night and this morning”. The storms ended near the end of March but the thaw did not come until April when ploughing and other farming work that should have been done earlier was completed.

The Flatley name also crops up in the *Connaught Telegraph* of 15th March, “Mr. Joe Flatley, newsagent, Ballyhaunis, had a trying experience in spending seven days in travelling from Dublin to Ballyhaunis. Tuesday, Feb. 25th, boarded west bound bus in Dublin. Reached Longford after much difficulty that evening. Stayed night in Longford. Wednesday, 26th Feb., boarded another bus with a number of Achill migratory labourers. The party was provided with shovels and was prepared to dig their way home if possible. Digging operations continued throughout Wednesday and Thursday between Longford and Roscommon. Friday 28th Feb., Roscommon reached: bus proceeded as far as Linabane, but owing to snow drifts could make no further progress. Passengers walk back to Roscommon and remain there for night. Saturday 1st March. Another effort made to blaze trail, but to no avail and Mr. Flatley and

Ballyhaunis and the Blizzard of 1947 *continued...*

company return again to Roscommon and spend next two nights there. Tuesday, 4th March, boarded Galway bound bus, and from there succeeded in getting to Claremorris. Walking from Claremorris to Ballyhaunis on the last stage of his long journey, he had reached Brickens before being picked up by a car. This, we venture to say, must be a journey unparalleled for hardship in the annals of this county in many years”.

Further reporting continues with the headline “Ballyhaunis Recovers” – “Ballyhaunis is recovering slowly from the effects of the snow blizzard. Nearly all the byroads in the vicinity of the town are still impassable with drifts ranging from 4 to 10 feet in depth. Some people from the out lying districts only managed to reach town early this week and many stories of privation and hardship are still going the rounds. Reports from other districts tell of losses of sheep and lambs in snow drifts, but on enquiry it was learned that in some instances these losses are being grossly exaggerated, so as to make the stories being told more colourful. Electric current was restored to the town on Tuesday of last week, and some time afterwards the water supply was again functioning. The breakdown of the water supply was one of the greatest hardships here, and we shudder to think what might have been the result had a fire occurred in the town during those waterless days. Snow remains piled on the roof tops and falling eve gutters were a source of danger to shoppers during the weekend. Pedestrians would be well advised to keep to the centre of the road as much as possible until the roof tops have become clear of snow”.

The Western People of 8th March reported that it had received no communication whatever from its Claremorris and Ballaghaderreen reporters since the blizzard began 10 days ago. Other news items reported that from Tuesday morning, the entire Shannon electricity system failed, court sittings were cancelled and the postal service was suspended. Further headlines screamed “Complete Isolation”, “Weather causes chaos”, “Worst blizzard in living memory isolates the west and stops all industry”. By the 15th March the paper had made contact with their correspondent who recorded that “travelling outside Claremorris is impossible ... but for people who trudged through from Ballyhaunis I learned of the terrible conditions prevailing there. No motor hearse would travel to funerals and coffins containing remains had actually to be drawn with ropes along the snow covered roads. Many motorists who ventured out went only a few miles until their cars became snow bound. They had to abandon the vehicles and struggle to the nearest town, in many cases people who were caught in the storm slept in hay barns at night”.

Work cancelled

Paddy O’Connell, Drimbane when interviewed for the Annagh Magazine of 2000 remembers “I went to bed on the night of 26th February and when I got up in the morning, the Lord save us. As far as you could see, there was nothing but pure snow. It snowed for about 3 days and 3 nights and it was desperate. Then everything froze over that ... there was no electricity and when we’d finish work we’d go for a walk, anything to keep warm. Work was cancelled but there was nobody coming into the shop”

Frank Glynn Jr., formerly of Clare St., shared his memories of the blizzard in the Annagh of 1988 - “... we had snow like we had never seen before. Piles and drifts in front of our house on Clare St. Bread was still scarce and when loads arrived I recall lining up at Coyne’s. A few days later my father and I walked to Ballindrehid, where we traded bread for potatoes and eggs from Roger Healy. It was rather exciting for us kids, the schools were closed for 2 weeks and even though we were always hungry, it was fun to play in the huge drifts. Some of the drifts last until the end of May, when we had a beautiful summer which lasted until September”.

In Annagh 1991, another ex Clare St. resident Anthony

Robinson tells us of “Memories of serving mass in the Abbey bring to mind the great snowfall of 1947 and the climbing of the Friday Hill every morning with the snow almost head high. I remember the huge snowman which we built in Clare St. and part of which still stood in the month of May; how no bus or van was able to reach Ballyhaunis for some days; the death of Willie Lyons, father of Tom, and the coffin brought to the graveyard by sleigh through what appeared to my young eyes, to be 10 feet of snow; the many hours my father, mother, brother and myself played the game of whist to while away the hours; the schools closed for many weeks and the day that Boland’s bread van broke through and arrived at Coyne’s, heralding the beginning of the end of the snow”.

One of Anthony’s childhood best friends and with whom he shared a desk with at the Convent School was Kieran Waldron, who also shared his memories with Annagh readers in 1999. “A sobering sight which I witnessed in my boyhood is embedded in my memory ... was the unforgettable sight of a coffin of a Michael Hurley, Clooncan arriving via Knox St. on it’s way to Ballyhaunis cemetery on 27th February, dragged on a sleigh from Gorthaganny Church over the snow drifts of the famous blizzard of that year”.

Entries in Michael F. Waldron’s journal also record the following:-

February 24th – Miss Anne Greally, Main St., Merchant, died and also of the same date Willie Lyons, Clare Rd., commercial, died in Swinford.

February 26th – Owing to snow drifts, remains of Miss Greally and Willie Lyons had to be drawn in a hand cart to cemetery.

February 26th - Mrs Anne Hopkins, Barrack St. died.

February 27th – Remains of Mrs Anne Hopkins, Barrack St. and Mrs Austin Waldron, Crossard were drawn to cemetery on hand cart and sled with great difficulty, owing to snow.

Alice Lyons recalls

Willie Lyons’ name was remembered many times in people’s accounts of 1947. Husband to Alice and father to Thomas and Alacoque. At 96 years of age, Alice is now resident at Brookvale Nursing Home and when I visited her during the summer, I asked her, what it was like to lose her husband during such an extraordinary time of hardship in Ireland. She first told me about life growing up on the family farm. There were 14 children in her family and her early memories were that her parents and all the children worked very hard on the farm at Cloonlara in Began. She remembers saving the turf with her father, helping with any work that needed to be done and many a time remembers having to walk into Ballyhaunis in the pitch dark to get a message from the doctor for her parents.

Move forward to 1947, and she told me her husband Willie had died on 23rd February in Swinford Hospital, after a short illness. At the Library in Castlebar, I discovered his death notice in the Western People of 5th April and it read as follows; -

“We regret to announce the death of Mr. William Lyons, Clare Street, Ballyhaunis ... Deceased, who was son of Mrs Lyons and the late Thomas Lyons of Lecarrow, Ballyhaunis enjoyed a wide measure of respect from all classes in the community and was held in high esteem by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. For a long period he was manager of the hardware department at Messrs Gallagher’s, Main St, and was also a noted Gaelic footballer having played for Ballyhaunis team on numerous occasions. Of a quiet, unassuming and friendly disposition, he was a general favourite and his passing in the springtime of life came as a great shock not alone to his family and relatives but to all who ever knew him. Deep sympathy is tendered to the bereaved ones in their great loss. On Monday evening the remains were removed to St. Patrick’s parish Church, Ballyhaunis and on Tuesday morning at 11 o’clock Solemn Requiem Mass was offered for the repose of his soul ... On Thursday morning

Ballyhaunis and the Blizzard of 1947 *continued...*

the funeral which was large and representative took place to the family burial ground (new cemetery) where the interment ceremony was conducted by Rev. H. Curley CC who was assisted by Rev E.A. Mansfield OSA. Officers of the local LSF group, of which the late Mr Lyons was a staunch member during the emergency period, placed a wreath on the grave. The chief mourners included: Mrs. Margaret Lyons (mother); Mrs Alice Lyons (wife); Alacoque and Tommy (daughter and son); Michael, Thomas and John Lyons (brothers)".

Alice remembers the church being so very cold and the town in general felt very cold. Her husband's remains spent almost a week in the church and she in fact was not present at her husband's burial as the gate at her parents' house in Cloonlara had become blocked with mounds of snow and she was unable to leave to be at the burial. According to the Connaught Telegraph of the day – "after being help up for days, the coffins were placed on a hand cart and towed on this contrivance a distance of half a mile to the graveyard. At Drimbane the men experienced much difficulty, but eventually succeeded in reaching the graveyard after surmounting drifts of snow 6 feet deep".

In the weeks following her loss, there were tough times ahead for Alice who had her two young children to take care of and provide for. Well meaning people at the time suggested she should have the children adopted or indeed she and the children should emigrate to America where her sister lived. Alice would have none of it and decided to continue with the shop she and Willie had opened in Clare Street. Alice said the arrival of Paddy McGarry's cinema was a life saver for her business. It had been in construction since 1945 and finally opened for business according to M.F. Waldron's journal on 18th April 1948. The cinema came first and then the dance hall and with that came business for Alice's Shop. Some nights she would stay open until 4 am serving cinema goers and then early in the

morning she would have to be up again to bring the children to school and open up the shop for the day ahead. Tough times indeed. How many of us would manage such a schedule today?!

Neglect of the West

And to bring this story of 60 years ago to a conclusion, to follow is the Western People editorial of 8th March, condemning the neglect of the West by the government in the East and how the recent weather conditions highlighted the need for adequate infrastructure in the West in 1947: "For some time past we have been urging the taking of steps to provide for a central airfield in the Western province. Had it been possible to travel by air, or transport food or mail in that way during the crisis, things would have been made much easier for the community, and our sense of isolation would be less complete. Further, had our Western ports not been closed by a Government-aided concentration of shipping traffic in Dublin, connection with the outer world could have been readily maintained by sea".

"The people of the West entertain a sense of grievance, too, because of the Irish radio news broadcasts, which conveyed to those in a position to hear them no sense at all of the seriousness or isolation of our position following the blizzard. Even as we write we are still isolated, with no adequate staff available for the restoration of telephone or telegraph lines and no regular means of conveyance of mails. Let us make up our minds in the West to insist that we shall have equality of treatment and consideration with the rest of the country and if the plight in which we find ourselves has the effect of focussing attention on our needs and the littleness of the worry our grievances create at headquarters, it may not be an altogether unmixed evil".

The Big Snow 1947

Sinead Freyne



The Big Snow 1947

George Flanagan, Crossard, in his teens, taking a bag of turf to his neighbour Lena Grealley (RIP) on the donkey's back.

Ballyhaunis and the Blizzard of 1947 *continued...*

Maura O'Grady

On that first day
A strong gale
Surrounded our house
Pushing powdery snow
Before it
Snatching the breath
Of anyone who dared
Out of doors.

Indoors candles were lit
Light was blocked out
By the blizzard
Snow was frozen solid
Some drifts high as houses.

We lived above fences
Boundaries wiped out
Stonewalls and hedges
Were non existent
We walked tall
We and the neighbours
Became one big family.

On the second day
My father and brothers
Dug their way to the well
Our mother made sherbet ice cream
Placed in a fancy bowl
It was put out of doors to set
Under a galvanised bucket
In the freezing snow.

This poem was submitted by Maura O'Grady and is taken from her book 'A Sea of Bluebells'. Maura is a native of Carracastle, Co. Mayo, and has lived in Dublin for many years. The spirit of both places influences her writing and her painting. Her parents were married on June 12th 1933 and went to Ballyhaunis for the day.

Snow

Fr. Kieran Burke

There's nothing just quite like it here below
What do I speak of, why, I speak of snow.
It comes from far off regions ever white
And falling from the sky it's quite a sight.

Each snowflake, 'tis a work of art for sure
Awarded equally to rich and poor.
Descending gently from the clouds above
Like feathers from so many turtle doves.

Soon ore the earth a blanket white appears,
A lovely prospect – many hearts it cheers.
A silence then it settles over all
And nature sleeps, enrapt in a white shawl.

The sun comes out shining most brilliantly
The snow it sparkles, what a sight to see.
This has the power to raise our spirits high
To the Creator of this earth and sky.

Three cheers for snow!



Ballyhaunis Active Retirement on a trip to Scotland in September 2007.

L-R: Sr. Patricia Fahy, Mary Coffey, Carmel Waldron, Sr. Evelyn Fahy, Pauline Curley, Bridie Brennan, Kathleen Caulfield.



Peg Greene, Noel Levins, Nellie Levins.



Austin Byrne, Johnstown.

Abbey Pattern

Following the huge success of last year's Abbey Pattern the committee started work on this year's Pattern before Christmas. We wanted to make this year's Pattern bigger and better than last year's. We had our AGM in April and the following officers were elected: Aisling Caulfield, Chairman; Martin Walsh, Treasurer; and Deirdre Moran remained as Secretary. Unfortunately, our committee has dwindled a bit this year; the committee members are Ann Lyons, Susie Ottewell, Michael Egan, Enda Murphy, Stephen Grogan, Seamus Grogan, Stella Hughes. Hopefully, following the huge success of this year's Pattern more parents will consider joining our merry little group.

We started seeking sponsorship in July and we really were astounded with the generosity of the businesses and people of Ballyhaunis. Many, many thanks to you all for very generous contributions to the Abbey Pattern. Without you the Pattern would not have happened!

The Pattern is traditionally held on the Last Sunday in August and we thought we would have a few problems this year with Ballyhaunis playing a vital Championship match and a large local wedding being held that day. We thought most of our help for the day would be attending either event. We put the word out seeking as much help as possible and once again the people of Ballyhaunis came up trumps!

Pattern Sunday

After what seemed like the wettest summer ever, Sunday 26th of August dawned a beautiful sunny day. The gods were really looking after us – we could put the wellies away until next year! We organised a bigger marquee, hired a children's face painter, more bouncy castles, and had more sporting activities for young and old alike. We even went as far as hiring portaloos for everyone's convenience!

Fr. Burke started the day with Mass in the Friary Church which had a huge attendance. The Mass in the Friary has proved to be extremely popular and the attendance is growing each year. The Balla Pipe Band opened the events after Mass with a parade down the avenue and around the field. Some of the very talented girls from the Elwood School of Dancing gave a demonstration of Irish Dancing.

The Field was in fantastic shape again this year. This is down to the trojan work carried out by Sean Biesty. Sean really put all his efforts into having the field in such spectacular shape – Many Thanks – don't know what we would do without you!

The weather was just brilliant – sun shining all day. It was unbelievable the amount of children taking part in the athletics! Our poor helpers were exhausted after all the heats that had to be run, such were the number of entrants. The Wheel of Fortune was a huge attraction again this year with some fabulous prizes on offer. The helpers had their work cut out selling tickets and giving out prizes, such was the demand. Mind you, one of our ladies felt that if there was a small shower of rain the Wheel would have done better – are we ever happy?!

Competition was fierce at the Dog Show with dogs of all makes and sizes taking part. Two organisations took part this year to raise funds for their groups - The Parent and Toddler Group had a very profitable day with their Tea & Cake Sale, and the Mayo Branch of ISPCA sold goods – all raising much needed funds for their organisations. Any group or organisation wishing to make funds for their charity are more than welcome to have a stall – all monies made was theirs to keep.

It was a great success all round with some houses taking home more than one piece of silverware! Parents and children alike took part in all the activities with great enthusiasm, from the toddlers race right up to the over 30's races, nappy hanging, potato picking and nail hammering. This year the committee felt it was right and proper to honour the late Maria Cribben. Maria was a very important part of the Abbey Pattern for many years and following her death last year



Danny Carroll receiving a cheque for €250 for Special Olympics, from Aisling Caulfield, Abbey Pattern committee.

we decided to honour her memory with the Maria Cribben Memorial Trophy for the Ladies Over-30's race. Her grand-daughter Áine presented it to our very own Chairperson, Aisling Caulfield, the winner this year.

The committee felt that the whole day was a huge success. This could be seen by the smiles on all the faces leaving late that evening. We want to say a special thanks to all the help we received that day and indeed the days before with the staking out of the field and getting the track ready, getting the Wheel of Fortune sorted out, hanging the bunting and banners. We really could not have managed without all the help! It was wonderful to see new faces getting involved in helping on the day – perhaps we can talk you all into helping again next year? We are open to any suggestions that you may have to make next year's Pattern a bigger and better day. You can log onto the website and view results and even more photos, and of course make your suggestions. Website address: www.abbey-pattern.com

We are aware that some people in the community may be concerned about where any profits made will be going, and we want to assure everyone that the monies raised will be used to make next year's Abbey Pattern an even bigger, better and freer day for children and their families. As we have stated previously, the Abbey Pattern Committee is not a money-making organisation and the committee will meet soon to discuss what group will get donation this year. To date the Abbey Pattern Committee has donated €2,500 to Ballyhaunis based children's charities. This year, following the Pattern, we gave a donation of €250 to Danny Carroll for the Special Olympics in Beijing. A meeting will be held before Christmas to decide on where this year's profits will be donated and, rest assured, it will be Ballyhaunis based and will be of benefit to the children of the community.

The AGM of the Abbey Pattern Committee will be held in February and new members really are vital. Our committee is getting smaller each year and yet the work is becoming more substantial so please think about joining the committee of this very worthwhile organisation.

We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank everyone who helped on the days leading up to the 2007 Abbey Pattern and the day itself: they really are too numerous to mention. The day could not be held without them, and all our sponsors and patrons, so thank you so much once again.

Abbey Pattern Winners



*U-6 Boys,
1st Patrick Caulfield, 2nd James McDonagh, 3rd Barry Cribbin with
Michael Egan (Committee).*



*U-6 Girls,
1st Cait Phillips, 2nd Niamh O'Neill, 3rd Muriel Ottewell*



*U-8 Boys,
1st Macangel, 2nd Henok, 3rd Liam Herr
with Michael Egan (Committee).*



*U-8 Girls,
1st Esther Akinbiodun, 2nd Katelyn Concannon, 3rd Danielle Coyne*



*U-10 Boys,
1st Cathal Carney, 2nd Tommy McDonagh, 3rd Ryan Kilbane
with Michael Egan (Committee).*



*U-10 Girls,
1st Niamh Murray, 2nd Leanne Henry, 3rd Chloe Webb Shannon*

Abbey Pattern Winners



*U-13 Boys,
1st Jason Kenny, 2nd Morgan Lyons, 3rd Jim Reidy*



*U-13 Girls,
1st Pamela Ubaezuona, 2nd Tasha Coyne, 3rd Margaret Cleary*



*U-16 Boys,
1st Morgan Lyons, 2nd Jason Kenny, 3rd Jim Reidy*



*U-16 Girls,
1st Natasha Coyne, 2nd Margaret Cleary, 3rd Niamh Murray*



*U-18 Boys,
1st Jarlath Carney, 2nd Thomas McDonagh, 3rd Jason Kenny*



*U-18 Girls,
1st Robyn Moran, 2nd Olwyn Murray, 3rd Tasha Coyne*

Abbey Pattern Winners



Ladies over 30's

Maria Cribben Memorial Race (sponsored by Ballyhaunis & District Credit Union): 1st Aisling Caulfield, 2nd Agatha Higgins, 3rd Stella O'Neill



Aisling Caulfield, winner of the Ladies over 30's race, receiving the Maria Cribben Memorial Trophy from Aine Cribben, granddaughter of Maria.



Patrick Phillips, winner of the Men's Veteran race, being presented with the Frank Connolly Memorial trophy by Frank's daughters Molly and Monica.



U-9 3-Legged Race (Boys)

1st Eddie Cleary/James Cribbin, 2nd Macangell/Hanok



U-13 3-Legged Race (Boys): 1st Jamie Skeffington/James Cribbin, 2nd Rory Nestor/Stephen Nolan, 3rd Jason Coyne/Ryan Kilbane



U-13 Girls 3-Legged Race: 1st Claire Moran/Lisa Morley, 2nd Margaret Cleary/Mary Maughan, 3rd Niamh Murray/Laura Carney

Abbey Pattern Winners



U-16 Boys 3-Legged Race

*1st Jamie Skeffington/James Cribbin, 2nd Morgan Lyons/Shane Healy,
3rd Jarlath Carney/Adrian Phillips*



U-16 Girls 3-Legged Race

*1st Lorraine Hickey/Louise Culliney, 2nd Olwyn Murray/Robyn
Moran, 3rd Megan Burke/Caroline Maughan*



Boys Sack Race

*1st Brian O'Neill, 2nd Toubel Haji, 3rd Jason Kenny/Carlton
Ubaezuona*



Girls Sack Race

1st Leanne Henry, 2nd Niamh Murray, 3rd Claire Moran



Boys U-9 Egg and Spoon Race

1st Sean Carrick, 2nd James Cribbin, 3rd John Cunnane



Girls U-9 Egg and Spoon Race

1st Marina Tighe, 2nd Stephanie Tighe, 3rd Katie Henry

Abbey Pattern Winners



Senior Boys Egg and Spoon Race
1st Jim Reidy, 2nd Shane Healy, 3rd Jason Kenny



Senior Girls Egg and Spoon Race
1st Lisa Morley, 2nd Claire Moran, 3rd Brigid McDonagh

Other Prize Winners

Toddler Boys: 1st Tommy Cleary, 2nd Dean Lyons, 3rd Sean Morley.

Toddler Girls: 1st Erin Murray, 2nd Teresa Cleary, 3rd Rebecca Lyons.

Men's Veteran Race - Frank Connolly Memorial (sponsored by The Clock) 1st Patrick Phillips, 2nd Martin Walsh, 3rd Seamus Egan.

Best Dressed Lady: Una Shields.

Best Dressed Gent: T. J. McCarrick.

Raffle: 1st Prize, Jonathan Kelly, Bekan; 2nd Prize, R. Donnelly, Loughglynn; 3rd Prize Martin Keane, Ballyhaunis.

Sheaf Tossing: Confined: Michael Loftus Memorial Cup: 1st Albert Madden, 2nd Padraig Cleary, 3rd Michael Lyons. Open: 1st Alan Nohily, 2nd Martin Nohily, 3rd Shane Cummins. Novice: 1st JP, 2nd John Lyons, 3rd Robert Freyne.

Single Rose: 1st Teresa Healy.

Arrangement in a Vase: 1st Teresa Healy, 2nd Teresa Healy, 3rd Marie Naughton.

Penalty Kicks: 1st Jason Coyne, 2nd Morgan Lyons, 3rd Robyn Moran.

Nappy hanging: 1st Robyn Moran, 2nd Aidan Cahill, 3rd Lorena Freeley.

Potato Picking: 1st Sanni Abu, 2nd Freddie Herr, 3rd Robyn Moran.

Guess the Number of Sweets: Rebecca Creighton.



Michael and Margaret Hopkins celebrate their Fortieth Wedding anniversary with family.

Back, L-R: Austin, Michael Jr. Seated, L-R: Cathy, Martin, Margaret with grandson Adam, Michael Snr. and Breda Hopkins.

Holidays in Ballyhaunis

You might recall my homily in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis over the weekend of August 25th/26th 2007. I proclaimed with some pride that I have holidayed in Ballyhaunis every year of my life – my first visit having been as a 5-month-old baby in 1964.

Well, my annual sojourn in Mayo is something I genuinely hope to continue. I have truly found spending time in Ballyhaunis refreshing and enriching. The holiday might take a somewhat different form nowadays from the times spent in Island as a child, but it is no less enjoyable.

Island

As I explained, my family lived in Island from 1957 to 1961, when they moved to Birmingham, where I was born a few years later. Upon moving, they sold the farm they had in Island but kept the house. So, we had a ready-made holiday home!

I think my earliest memory of all concerns the village of Island. I remember the birthday party for my brother Michael, one August when we were in Ballyhaunis. I could only have been about three at the time. The party took place in a field beside our house; there were quite a number of the local children present.

Our home was to become something of a gathering point for the younger members of the neighbourhood over the coming years. When I was eight or nine, I got to participate in football matches, staged in the field in front of our house. Some of the lads from the 'High Island' village (as I seem to remember it was called then) and Bohogue would cycle down – John and Michael Morley, the Caulfields and Finnegan. In a major concession to their English visitors, the footballers abandoned their preferred game of Gaelic, choosing to play soccer instead. I used to play in goal. My mother would look out of the window and nearly suffer heart failure when she saw me diving fearlessly at the feet of young men twice my age. On those long summer evenings, we would play until it eventually got so dark that it became difficult to tell whether we were about to kick the ball or a fellow player! Then we would get our breath back, lying under the stars, telling each other stories.

Teenage years

As I moved into my teens, it was the children of other families who were to become my companions – the Kellys, Hopkins, Finnegan, Kellys, Hunts and Comers. We devised our own version of tennis, hitting a ball off the gable wall of the house, using the tennis scoring system. We called the game "Slam!" Necessity is the mother of invention!

Sometimes, we assisted the neighbours in what was a very busy time of the year for them. My older brother engaged in hay-making much more than I did, but I do remember lending my aid to at least bringing the hay back into barns, employing the services of a donkey and cart. I was thereby entitled to that huge plate of mashed potatoes in butter and milk – 'calais?' – an integral part of every hay-making day.

Feast of the Assumption

The walk to Knock was a great feature of my childhood Augusts in Ballyhaunis. Being on the Knock side of the town, we didn't have to set out quite so early as many other pilgrims, in order to walk to the shrine to be present for the 6am Mass on Our Lady's great feast of the Assumption. We could leave at 3am or so. There was something very special, almost heavenly, about setting out on that pilgrimage in the still of night. We would have great "craic" along the way – but we did manage a Rosary or two. It was

truly wonderful to be present at the gable-end of the parish church for the Mass as dawn was breaking. It somehow reflected how Our Lady's Assumption is the dawn of our own hope of Heaven.

Pontiff's visit

The summer of 1979 was especially memorable. The weather was nearly as bad as what we endured this year – but there was a tremendous buzz of anticipation all summer. The Pope was coming to Knock! All the talk, in that centenary year of the apparition of Our Lady, was of the impending visit of the 'Successor to Peter' to Mayo. People talked about how they were going to get there, what time they would set off, how many other people they reckoned would go, etc. I was unable to be in Ireland for the great event – having to go back to school in Sutton Coldfield. However, my mother did wait over. She got a good view of the Pope: "All I could say as he came out on the balcony was 'God bless you!'" I will always remember her telling us about going out again to Knock a couple of days after the visit of John Paul II. She sat with a group of people who just seemed to be in a daze. All anybody could talk about was the wonderful happening of the Pontiff's visit. She felt it must have some similarity to what the disciples would have felt after the Lord ascended into heaven.

The Legion of Mary came to play a major role in my more recent Mayo holidays. Being a member in England, I joined the local Ballyhaunis praesidium (group) during my visits. I got a great deal out of attending the local meetings, and carrying out whatever work was assigned. In recent years, this has involved visiting the increasing numbers of people from other lands and continents who have come to live in Ballyhaunis.

Excellent neighbours

As I mentioned when I spoke to the people of Ballyhaunis this summer, things were not always rosy for us when we spent time in Island. I had a spell in Castlebar hospital when I was four, my brother had an accident with a hay-fork in 1973 and some ten years later, my mother was hospitalised for nearly two weeks during a summer holiday. Whenever such trials came our way, our friends, relatives and neighbours excelled themselves in the help they offered. They have set a great example which undoubtedly is helping me in my journey towards the priesthood. They were willing to set aside their other duties and come to our aid. Many of them have since gone to their eternal reward. May they rest in peace.

Sense of belonging

I have been very fortunate in life, in that I have had the opportunity to visit many different countries. I have even had the great privilege of being able to study for the priesthood in Rome, following a preliminary year in Spain. However, Ireland and especially Ballyhaunis will always be special to me. I do feel a sense of belonging amongst you. It truly lifts my heart to be greeted each year with the words: "Welcome home".

Please pray for me as I continue on my journey of priestly formation. I certainly hope to carry out a priestly ministry amongst you during future holiday times.

Deacon John Peyton is a seminarian at the Pontifical Beda College, Rome, studying for the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

A First Class Miracle

The day was beautiful and sunny, as most days are in Tanzania, in tropical East Africa, but Fr. Michael Barry had more things on his mind than the weather. He was almost at his wits end, and the present and future looked extremely bleak. Not untypical for people who spend their lives in the service of others, he had reached the point where the little he had for living expenses and looking after his poor community was now completely gone. He didn't have the equivalent of €1 in Tanzanian shillings – the local currency.

He remembers the particular day well, it was Wednesday, 9th May and his life-long friend Dan Naud had visited him in his remote parish of Bouy in the African bush, situated 25km from the nearest town, Babati. Both men left Ireland as newly ordained priests in 1964 and have survived in one of the poorest areas of Sub-Saharan Africa, often referred to as 'the white man's graveyard', due to the prevalence of Malaria and a range of diseases to which outsiders have no natural resistance. Dan, who runs a school for young trainee technicians under Hanang mountain, was unable to help, but it was good to be able to spend time together and share each others problems. That's the unique thing about Africa – there, people have time, whereas in the developed countries they have watches.

Alone again, there was one last resort he should have thought of sooner. Entering the chapel, in front of the tabernacle he begged the One who never let him down, to do something for him. He was desperate, but in the silence, remembering other similar situations over the years, he got the feeling that his friend would somehow come to his aid yet again.

Euros from Heaven

As the Irish proverb goes, "Is giorra cabhair Dé ná an doras" (God's help is nearer than the door). That very same day, unknown to Fr. Michael, far away in the west of Ireland, the chaplain of Ballyhaunis Community School, Orla Macken, called to the writer with a substantial cheque for him. The school is renowned for the number of charitable causes, at home and abroad, it has supported over the years. Teachers and students there have a soft spot for the deprived in Tanzania, and have helped with projects there since the time Ballyhaunis and surrounding areas provided clean drinking water for Fr. Barry and his people when he was stationed in Magugu.

On May 2nd, a charity walk was undertaken by Orla, the teachers, and fourth year students. The astounding figure of €2,115

was raised for Fr. Michael. It was forwarded through Western Union and would be available for collection inside three hours of being sent, from any of its offices in Tanzania. Having no telephone coverage in his area, Fr. Michael would learn the good news as soon as a text would arrive on his mobile when he travelled through an area where there would be satellite coverage.

A phone call to Kathleen on Saturday confirmed the arrival of the text. He was elated and filled with gratitude. "My prayers were never answered as fast", he said. "I can't believe it – it is euros from heaven, a first class miracle!" He was informed that seventy people were counted walking the Gurteen-Carrowkeel road. He was so thankful to them, and would write to Orla and keep them in his prayers and Masses, and hoped life would be kind to them all. He was keeping well himself and would write all the news soon. It costs the equivalent of ?2 per minute to phone Ireland from Tanzania, and to put it into context, that is the average daily wage there.

Fr. Barry returned to Ireland in June 2006 for a hip replacement in Cork hospital and visited us here at the end of August. He was on the plane in early September, on crutches, back to "his people" in Tanzania. He is almost seventy, but has no talk of retirement as he continues his life's work among the needy. His other hip is now playing up a bit, but with God's help will last another while. He's an optimist with a good outlook on life and would agree that "working for the Man above, the wages may not be great, but you can't beat the retirement plan."

Later, the promised letter arrived. It's amazing the difference a little help can make. The hungry can be fed for the time being – the only time there is for them – and he is now able to continue helping the haemophiliac children. There is good news about Samila, the little crippled girl born with deformed feet. She began her operations in 2005 and one foot is now perfect and she can now leave the other foot flat on the sole as well. It's great to get good news.

The school walk didn't make the headlines here, but it made something far greater – it made a huge difference to a pastor and his people, in a Third World Country, who haven't many of the basic necessities, never mind the luxuries, that we here in Ireland take for granted.

Henry Madden



Community School students who fundraised for Fr. Michael Barry's parish in Magugu, Tanzania.

Ballyhaunnis Golf Club

Willie Coyne

Ballyhaunnis Golf Club had a very successful year in 2007 under the Captaincy of Tom McGuire and Marina Coyne. The President was John Mooney. The Men's Captain's prize was won by John Burke; the Ladies by Marge Hierons and the President's prize by Dennis Charlton. Congratulations to all.

Despite having a dreadful summer with record amounts of rainfall, the club continues to progress. The success story of the year was the junior golfers who competed in a number of Inter-club competitions in Connacht. Senior members also represented the club at Inter-club competitions.

Tutoring and competitions were held every Wednesday morning during the school holidays for junior members, boys and girls, with expert coaching from Eddie Thornton, Michael Mahony, Kevin Henry, Tom Prenty and Geraldine Collins. So we can be assured the future of the club is promising.

The club now has members from South Africa, Namibia, Thailand and England who are living and working in the area. Some of these members represented the club in various competitions in Connacht including Marge Hierons and Mariette Potgeiter who represented the club in All Ireland finals of Australian spoons.

The club is now looking forward to a successful year in 2008. New members will be most welcome.



Tom McGuire presenting his Captain's prize to John Burke.



1974, following a T.V. Junior Chamber Debating event.

*Back, L-R: Sean Freyne, Moira Delaney, Rita Webb, Junior Chamber representative from the National Council, Rita Mooney, Junior Chamber rep., John Mooney, Edward Mulhern, Seamus Forde.
Front, L-R: Mary Smyth, John Higgins, Ina Freyne, Phyllis Flanagan, Junior Chamber rep.*

The Stalls in Knock

Some year ago, I wrote an article for the Annagh magazine (2000 edition), titled 'Growing up in Main Street in the 1950s'. A large part of the experience at that time was not included in the article and needed to be told, i.e. the experience of our family having stalls and selling goods in Knock, during the period from the 1950s right up to the early 1970s.

During the 1950s, '60s and '70s, grocery shops and select bars remained open for six days of the week in the town and were closed on Sundays, except for the bars which had seven day licences. My father, Thomas Murphy, as well as a number of other families in the town, set up stalls in Knock for Sunday business. I have happy memories from childhood, of going to Knock on Sundays during the summer months. The whole family took part in the preparation for and the business itself. We had two stalls which we owned and my father paid ground rent to the owner of the site. The ground was owned by either J.J. Byrne or J. Curry, depending on which side of the road one rented the property.



Taken in Knock, 1956.

Back, L-R: Lily and Tom Murphy. Front, L-R: Miriam and Rita Murphy, Anne Smyth (cousin from Swinford).

The Structure of the Stalls

The main substance of the stalls consisted of a form of plywood and wooden supports, with a canopy which could be lifted and left open during business. The canopy was secured on each side with an iron bar which slipped into a notch to allow it to remain open during business. One could enter and leave the stall by lifting a leaf of the counter. At the end of the business day, the canopy was closed and locked until the following week. That was an era when burglaries or vandalism were not commonplace.

Preparation for the Knock Season

Pilgrimages to Knock at that time commenced in May and continued until October. The stalls remained open for the same period also. Once the pilgrimage season finished, the stalls would be dismantled and removed and stored away until the following year. Mam and Dad would prepare for the following year by going to Dublin to purchase goods from the wholesalers. During the 1950s and '60s, only religious items - rosary beads, statues of Our Lady of Knock and other saints, holy relics, holy pictures, neck chains with religious pendants or medals - bottles of minerals, mainly orange and of course the sticks of 'Rock from Knock' were sold. From the '60s onwards, there was a major change in all the goods sold in the stalls. We began to display toys, variety goods, various ornaments and souvenir goods.

Preparation for the day

The family did not have a car at that time so Dad would hire one of the hackney drivers, i.e. P. D. Freeley, Liam Smyth or one of the O'Malley brothers to bring the family to Knock. From the mid '60s we usually travelled by bus, leaving the house at 10am and arriving home exhausted at 7pm. Mam usually packed a full lunch for the family - ham, tomatoes, chicken and brown bread and a flask of tea, bottle of milk and sugar. If the particular day was fine, we usually sat out on a rug in the field behind the stalls and had our lunch. This area is all developed now and has a hotel on the site. After lunch, the family usually attended the ceremonies in Knock Shrine and then afterwards returned to business in the stalls.

Selling in the stalls

My sister Miriam was usually in one stall with Dad, and I was in the other with Mam. Later on, Edward took over one of the stalls. When we started the business in the '50s Miriam even had a little mineral stall on the hill in Knock at nine years of age. The pilgrims to Knock were from all over Ireland. Being the era long before the development of Knock International Airport, there were very few international visitors. Mam used always say that the best customers were from the North of Ireland, particularly Belfast. This was a time when we were little aware of the problems there. The people from Belfast went to such trouble and inconvenience to actually reach Knock, having travelled by train from Belfast to Dublin and get a connecting train from Dublin to Claremorris. They had to travel by bus from Claremorris to Knock. I recall that selling in the stalls did not really interest me, as I was more interested in listening to the conversations and various accents of the visitors to the stalls.

That time has long since gone, but has happy memories for us all. It was a time when people could trust each other; there was no traffic congestion or noise; there was not the affluence that exists today and we, as children, had enjoyment from the simple things in life.

Rita Murphy



Michael Ryan, Derrylahan, conferred with B.A. Religion and Humanitarian Studies (Hons.) and Post Graduate Diploma in Higher Educational Studies in GMIT.

Off My Trolley

Those of us who can “arise now and go to ‘Ennis free’” are also the generation that was on the road too early for the school bus. We toddled off to school barefooted during the summer months and often with two sods of turf under our arm to keep the school fire burning during winter.

Leaving school at fourteen or earlier did not mean the conclusion of our education. For many of us second level education began not by boarding a school bus but by embarking on the “Princess Maud” or the other vessels that were busily sailing back and forth across the Irish Sea. We were mature students by the time the microchip hit us and already finding it hard to keep abreast.

Many of us have given the computer a miss as we struggle to deal with other new additions to the curriculum. Becoming a multicultural society has revealed new educational needs. It happened in August. A girl in a supermarket telling me how to pronounce the name Kosciusko correctly. Our education has come some distance from “Fionn McCool agus an bradáin feasa” to talking in Abbey Street about the Polish patriot Thaddeus Kosciusko.

The rough lie-down

But this is about a new educational lesson that is giving me a lot of problems that I intend to mention next. It’s learning how to sleep on a hospital trolley. Now in my youth and prime I was not a fussy man about sleeping accommodation. I have slept on concrete floors, wooden floors, in the back seat of a car, under a cock of hay in a hayfield as a thunderstorm passed over, and in an army bed. I was not alone when I slept in a very narrow bed in Camden Town: plenty of company – fleas! It is true what they say about that Borough – ‘Camden Town for the rough lie-down’, and John Joe Lilly can confirm that I slept in a wardrobe way down in the County Kerry. When I arose from that “siesta”, had stretched myself and yawned, Billy Griffin from Irishtown who was also in the room remarked, “You’re like a man that’s used to the road”. Maybe so, but this new challenge has got me snookered. Can’t get the hang of it whatsoever, although I have made several genuine attempts. I cannot sleep on a hospital trolley.

Oh yes, there is one other place where I failed to get a good night’s kip: a park bench in London. Sean Walsh and myself were on our way back after a night out on the town. We were taking a short cut through a park which had a number of its benches occupied by slumberers, although the ground, benches and trees were covered with a good coat of frost. We got into a discussion as to how those fellows could survive in freezing conditions. One question led to another and we were asking what it must be like to sleep on a park bench like those “dossers”, as they were commonly referred to at the time. I objected to the term “dossers” and insisted they be called boarders, because they were sleeping on the boards that formed the seats of the benches. It was agreed that we would never find out what it was like unless we tried it out, and we may never get another chance. A double-sided bench was selected, one side already occupied by a boarder fast asleep with a few sheets of frost-covered newspaper for a blanket. We stretched out but did not nod off immediately and had some bedtime talk. Soon the boarder was awake and a cockney accent advised us to “kip in lads, kip in, we’ll have to be out of here by six”. With the cold from the bench and the freezing night already beginning to find its way into our bones, we knew that we would be out long before six. He was a civil fellow and we advised him that it was likely to be a fine night, no sign of rain although we could not be sure about snow. Soon we were on our way at a fast pace back to our own boarding house. Sean went to the USA shortly after that and now resides in Michigan. Neither of us is as light-footed or as high-spirited now as we were on that frosty night long ago.

No nightmares

The first attempt I ever made at sleeping in a hospital trolley was over twenty-five years ago in the Nepean Hospital in Australia. Can’t remember much about that effort except a nurse telling me the

hospital was named after the Nepean River which flows nearby, and being driven away by my sister Margaret who was matron in a hospital in Sydney at the time.

My most recent attempt was last August in the A. & E., Castlebar. Things looked promising at the start with a spotless white blanket being put over me and tucked in by a charming nurse. The only other good thing I can say about the rest of the night is that I had no nightmares. You have to be asleep before you can have a nightmare.

The trolley was parked at the end of the desk which was the nerve centre of the A. & E. with just enough room at the top of the trolley for people to enter or leave the desk. I could feel the shock vibrate as people occasionally bumped against it as they entered or left. To the right were cubicles into which people on trolleys were wheeled at various intervals to be examined by doctors, and being within earshot I could not help hearing hard story after hard story being related. Within earshot also there was to the left the constant tap tap of the computer keyboard and constant exchange of information between doctors and nurses. On the wall to the front was what was like a flat TV screen on which was constantly being clipped x-ray films. I tried to spot the difference in the various skulls and ribcages as one batch succeeded another, without any success. There was the odd amusing moment, like the chap who had a minor fall and was taken to the hospital by his girlfriend who got tired waiting about and went down town. He being attended to was told he could go home. Now it was his turn to hang around and await her return. She wobbled back in after midnight, ossified.

There were of course many other trolleys parked at random around the A. & E. ward, but mine was at the “crossroads”. It seems as if there had been some mistake and that I was here on an intensive FAS night course studying hospital management and procedure. Information to the right, information to the left, information directly in front and a bright light directly overhead to make sure I didn’t fall asleep during study. Also on the wall near the x-rays was a clock, the face seemed to get bigger and the hands seemed to move slower as the night wore on.

Do you know Joe Hosty?

They say a week is a long time in politics. With respect, I can assure politicians that a night on a hospital trolley is a long time. Came the dawn and my turn to be wheeled the short haul journey into a cubicle. With nobody having spoken, nor I having spoken to anybody during the long night, it was like a breath of fresh air when the nurse breezed in with a cheery word and a beguiling smile. She had her file with her; “Ballyhaunis? Do you know Joe Hosty? By the hokey I’m back in the real world again where everybody knows Joe Hosty. I could see a resemblance when she told me that Ann Hosty was her aunt.

On the move again, this time to the back door of the corridor where ambulances brought patients who were wheeled into the A. & E. or down the full length of the corridor to the admission area of the general hospital. A healthy location, it must be said, because whenever the door was opened to admit a patient it also admitted a good blast of cool air. Ventilation is of utmost importance in overcrowded situations.

Great excitement half way down the corridor – nurses running in the direction of a lady in agony. “Ring up the midwife”. “Get a large white towel!” “No large towels!” “Any white sheet will do!” The lady in agony is wheeled into a cubicle, the screen drawn; the cries of agony die away. “It’s a little girl”. Never knew until then that we arrive into this world upside down.

No stone unturned

On the move once more, back into the ward and into a cubicle again for another examination by a doctor. Bit like the examination done on the old car in the NCT Test Centre, but in a more courteous and sensitive manner. When the doctor had examined my head the expression on his face implied that he had found there was nothing

Off My Trolley *continued...*

there. He examined everything from head to toe. I can give him credit by saying that he left no stone unturned.

Back in the corridor I had little appetite when the lady called around enquiring what we would like for lunch. I gave what was on offer a pass. The lady suggested a sweet. A small portion of ice cream would be nice. When she came she had a small dish of jelly. To quote her own words she searched "high up and low down" but could find no ice cream. I was standing by the trolley some time later when she stopped as she was passing. Again she was sorry about the ice cream. I took her hand and assured her that jelly had been fine – firm, and nice and cool. "Where are you from?" "Straide". Michael Davitt country". "Yes". I went to Straide once to visit Michael Davitt's final resting place.

The newly arrived old-timer across from me had a thing or two to learn about the cuisine in this place. It was a nurse who enquired if there was something he would like to eat. I can still see the bewildered look on her pretty face when he said he would like some lamb. I had sympathy for her situation. How to tell him in a nice way that Oliver Twist had a better chance of getting more porridge in the Dickensian workhouse than he had of getting lamb served in the corridor. Were his expectations too high or were they on par with those rapacious gents at the other end of the medical chain who turned up their noses at a quarter of a million annual salary?

When you have nothing to do but look up at the ceiling, you have to occupy your mind in some way. While I told you how I had bedded down 'on the cheap' in the past I began to hanker on bed posts that were not winning posts; beds I had made a contribution towards and never slept on. A nurse had told us that half of us on trolleys in the corridor had health insurance. In other words we had paid in advance for a bed that was not there when needed!

Another example of a bed I paid for and never slept on was when I had a brief stay in the old part of this hospital some years ago. I had booked in about 8pm on a Saturday evening and was discharged at about 11am the following morning. Shortly afterwards I got a bill from the hospital for a two day stay which I had paid when I received a second letter advising me to pay up and look happy. Now it's alright to say 'pay the woman and leave the bed'. But, being asked to pay the woman and pay for the bed twice exceeds the rules of fair play.

Damping down

The third bed I recall having made a contribution towards and never slept on was in a guesthouse in a seaside resort on the East Coast of England. We were a group of exiles from Erin doing seasonal work in the area and had booked into the only accommodation available, a guesthouse which was a bit up market. Now at that time we exiles sang a lot about what "kept us here was the rake of beer, the ladies and the crack". The ladies and the crack were no problem, but the rake of beer often brought problems in its wake. A problem at the lower end of the scale was one encountered sometimes by landladies as they went about the daily routine. This alcohol-related problem was referred to as "damping down the bed". The problem may not be entirely alcohol related; poor potty training may come into the equation as well. One evening on arrival from work we found our suitcases neatly arranged in the hallway. One of our crew had "damped her down", hence the neatly arranged suitcases. We were scarcely in the hallway when the landlady made her grand appearance – no invitation into the dining room this time. Now we were accustomed to a fair bit of ear-bashing back home in the old country from missionaries, cops, schoolmasters, etc., but there was none of them could hold candlelight to our landlady once she got full steam up. I don't know what the others were thinking but the problem I had was that some of what she was saying was the truth, and truth can be a bitter pill to swallow.

The sheets may not have been cleaned but the slate was, and during a lull in the storm I edged up to her and slipped a pound into her hand. Now it should be remembered that at that time a pound was equal to half a day's wage in many jobs. She glanced down sideways at the pound in her hand. It had the same effect on her as the removal of

the firebox from a steam engine, she cooled down, the hissing stopped and when she reached room temperature it would have been safe to touch her without fear of getting blistered. She withdrew the eviction order with conditions: the rest of us could stay but the artist who decorated her sheet in abstract water colour would have to go. Fingers could be pointed; none were. I don't know how many of the crew noticed me slipping her my peace offering, but if any of them had they kept silent about it as we walked away with our light suitcases.

Great risks

Friday morning I was told there was one more scan to be done after dinner and then I could go home. Midday I was told the machine had broken down and that I would have to wait until Monday. If I had to stay on a trolley over the weekend I would be gone 'off my trolley' by Monday. I decided I was getting out of here come hell or high water. With the weather we were having at the time, high water was the more probable. I approached the desk to get my "pass out". I enquired from a lady in a blue uniform in a timid manner. By the mortal frost did I get a cold response! No beguiling smile here. No use trying the auld plámás or blarney here. A quick look in her eyes diagnosed that she was allergic to those. A robust discussion followed: she harping on about the great risk I was taking, I advised her on the great risk I had avoided by remaining a bachelor. There was no meeting of minds. None-the-less I must now do what honour demands, salute the lady on the firm stand she made in the line of duty. That there was concern there I will not deny.

I was greatly impressed by the way concern was shown during a flying visit I paid here in June. I was here in connection with some minor injury and there was a bit of blood in evidence. No harm having some blood showing here, it gives your presence a bit of credibility and if there is enough showing you may even get a bed. The girl at the reception desk, having taken down the standard details, wanted details of what had happened. I explained as best I could that I had a bit of a scrummage with some cattle and that injuries were incurred when I tried to turn the scrum. Such things happen on the pitch even with a referee present. She had written down the details and leaving the file aside she enquired with a smile in her eyes and concern in her voice, "How are the cattle?"

Pass-out

I was on the trolley for a tolerable length of time on that occasion while the doctor patched me up. It took him an hour but he did a good job, although the nurse who was present voiced concern about a dozen or so stitches on my face. She reckoned that they had been put in the wrong place, indicating where she thought they should be by drawing a gentle finger across my lips.

Although I had signed along the dotted line the hospital did not adopt a 'go and good riddance' attitude. A conference was being held down the corridor involving a doctor and some nurses. I knew what was on the agenda. The nurse who had witnessed my signature had the document with her and had shown it to the doctor and others. She approached my trolley and suggested I stay and that I would get a bed. She had been on duty since early morning, was charming and caring like all the other nurses I had encountered. It was not on their account I was leaving. Had other things been half acceptable on their account I would have stayed.

Considering that my sisters Margaret and Kitty were on the way to collect me, that I had put a fair amount of "diplomatic work" into getting the "pass out", I did not feel like tearing it up. I had my plastic bag packed, said goodbye to recently made acquaintances and did not think that this was a proper place to jump the queue. I declined the kind offer of a bed.

Ballyhaunis I.C.A.

Ballyhaunis I.C.A. meet every second Wednesday of the month in the Friary House at 8pm. New members are always welcome.

Two of our members, Mary Coffey and Maura Fitzmaurice had a lovely weekend at An Grianán. We have done various crafts during the year.

Ballyhaunis I.C.A. are to hold the Mayo Federation in November. Our AGM was held in June. Officers: Chairperson - Mary Waldron; Secretary - Maura Fitzmaurice; Treasurer - Margaret Dyer.

Maura Fitzmaurice



Dara Healy's 6th birthday.

L-R: Dylan Regan, Ethan Keane, Conal Caulfield, Patrick Caulfield, Shane Healy, Dara Healy, Tristan Walsh.



Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh on his visit to Ballyhaunis this year with Shane Healy, Morgan Lyons, Kevin Kilbride.



Garda David Donnelly, Garda Nicola Dolan, Sergeant Kieran McNicholas



Jimmy and Teresa Finn and family, Carrowkeel, on the night of their stations.

Back, L-R: Brandon Peake, Colm Finn, Liam Finn, Jimmy Finn, Delia Finn, Teresa Finn, Christopher Finn, Amy. Front, L-R: Aaron Peake, Lauren Finn, Eamonn Finn, Ryan Peake, Lucia Finn, Laura Finn, Georgia Peake



Finn's stations, Carrowkeel.

L-R: Mary Mulrennan, Mary Matthews, Seamus Mulrennan, Jimmy Finn, Martin Brennan



Dearbhla Phillips on her First Communion, taken in Annagh Woods.

Annagh Wheelers – La raison d'être



Members of Annagh Wheelers Cycling Club at the foot of Mont Ventoux in June 2007

left to right: Grahame Cleary, Martin Connery, Bernard Jennings, Mike Cleary and Hardy.

Some people often wonder why we do it? Why do we sit on a hard saddle the size of a monkey wrench for 100 odd kilometres Sunday after Sunday in all weathers? The sweat, effort and pain involved in pushing the pedals into a head-wind up Barnacarroll hill; why bother?

Well, some would think we do it out of a desire to keep fit; others assume that we like bikes and chains and oil and stuff; and yet others may quietly believe that it's the love of lycra!

Some or all of the above reasons may be true depending on whom you talk to but no; the real reason we do it, quite simply, is the food. Yes, FOOD! Fig Rolls, bananas, chicken sandwiches, Fig Rolls, fruit scones, omelettes, Mars bars, and Fig Rolls...you name it, and so long as it's crammed with calories, we'll eat it.

Don't ask us what it is, but food definitely tastes better after a couple of hours on the bike. You won't know what I'm talking about unless you've devoured half a packet of Fig Rolls washed down with a cup of steaming coffee on a cold February morning outside a petrol station in Foxford having cycled 50km. You won't appreciate how delicious the chicken sandwiches and pints of Guinness in Gill's taste until you've completed the Mayo 200km. And chances are you've never had the opportunity to savour a bowl of cassoulet in Villefranche de Lergais after 100 sweaty kilometres through the French countryside in June.

So, no longer content with the scones on offer in Healy's pub in Pontoon, six foolhardy members of the Annagh Wheelers C.C. set off for Biarritz in June in search of la vraie cuisine française.

France

Our search took us from Biarritz in South-western France, through the Pyrenees and the Cevennes to Avignon and finally to the Alps and Grenoble. We averaged over 100km a day (60 miles) and never missed a meal...apart from one and God, were we narky.

We travelled solo which meant carrying everything we needed for a two week holiday on the bikes. (You would be surprised how little you need when you have to carry it over, amongst others, the 1,909m ascent of Mont Ventoux.) Needless to say we had very few creature comforts. Although some people's view as to what constituted a creature comfort, as against a necessity, differed.

It may have been Confucius who said "the bigger the bag, the greater the load"; however nobody told James. He may not have had a spare tube but he carried a travel iron in panniers that would have safely held the population of Luxembourg. In fairness, he was, without doubt, the best dressed cyclist on the trip.

There were many highlights over the two weeks – the climbs (and descents!) of Col de Marie Blanque, Col d'Aubisque, the Tourmalet, Mont Ventoux and Alpe d'Huez were special. So too were the salads the size of a small Welsh vegetable garden, Grahame's and Hardy's pizzas in Lannemezan, Mike's sock washing exploits under the Pont du Gard, the judo music festival in Remoulins, the pigeons in Avignon, Martin's dessert in Veynes, Bernard's homemade carrier and the many, many pichets de vin rouge.

So, after cycling over 1,270km in thirteen days, climbing 18,274m (that's twice the height of Mt. Everest) and spending 58 hours in the saddle, do you still wonder why we bother? Well, it certainly is about the craic, the scenery, the sense of freedom, and the personal challenge. But above all it's about the food and if you don't believe us why not come and try it for yourself. All you need is a bike!

The Annagh Wheelers leave every Sunday morning at 9ish in their weekly quest to Castlebar or to Foxford or to Ballinrobe (depends on the wind!) for coffee and Fig Rolls.

Grahame Cleary

Centenary Birthday Celebrations in the U.S.

I had the great pleasure of celebrating Bridget Agnes Moran Kelly's 100th Birthday, with her family in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 2006. My sister Bridie Martin also travelled from Yonkers, N.Y. for the big occasion.

This great lady was born in 1906 in the village of Brackloughboy to Martin and Bridget Agnes Moran (nee Judge, Larganboy). She and her three sisters Anne (Mrs. Lavelle), Mary (Mrs. Flood) and Kate (Mrs. Mangan) emigrated to the U.S. in the 1920's. Their brother Patrick (my father) stayed at home to work the farm. He married Kate Harris from Gurteen and they had 11 children.

In 1933 Bridget Agnes married Jack Kelly from Feakle, Co. Clare in Long Island, N.Y. They had a son John and a daughter Anne. They lived in Long Island for many years, finally moving to New Orleans to be close to their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They made many trips to Ballyhaunis and Feakle over the years and attended "The Moran Family Reunion" in Ballyhaunis in 1997.

Sadly, Uncle Jack died in 2000 but Bridget Agnes continued her trips to Ireland each year up to 2005, staying for long periods at her son's summer home in Mount Shannon, Co. Clare. She enjoys reading and loves the Irish Books, Ireland's Own and the Annagh Magazine. She mentions as her favourites "To School through the Fields" and "A Connachtman's rambles." She keeps up



Bridget Agnes in 1925 when she emigrated to USA, and in 2006, on her one hundredth birthday.

with the latest news and politics from Ireland. She quotes a verse her mother used to say when they were little.

***"Life is but an empty dream, of man's delusion given
The smiles of joy, the tears of woe
There's nothing bright but Heaven."***



Kelly Family at Aunt Agnes 100th Birthday

Back, L-R: Son John and grandson John. Middle, L-R: Rita Moran-Duddy, Bridie Moran-Martin, Jean Kelly, Dan Kelly, Karen Kelly and Anthony Stephens. Centre: Ryan Stevens, Patricia Kelly. Front, L-R: Kelly Clare Stevens, Bridget Agnes Kelly and Patrick Stevens.

Gracenotes



Gracenotes in Montefollonico, Tuscany.

Back, L-R: Moira Stratford, Aisling Macken, Olivia Regan, Karen Ronane, Xanthe Pratt, Miriam Winston, Mary Patterson, Laura Brogan, Mary Dawson, Bridie Giblin, Eimear Thornton, Yvonne Loughran, Moira Delaney, Marge Heirons, Nuala Cahill, Mary-Hannah O'Connor. Front, L-R: Breege Kenny, Ita Fahey, Anna Butler, Mary Lyons, Anna Henry and Maureen Thornton.

I wish to start this article by paying tribute to the late Barry Butler. Last December we were all completely stunned and saddened when we heard of the sudden death of Barry the late husband of Anna Butler our former Musical Director and current member of the choir. Barry was always very supportive of Gracenotes, helping with any events we were involved in. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him. We offer our sincere condolences to Anna and also to the other members of the choir who sadly also lost close members of their families this year.

On a brighter note this year has been a very exciting one for Gracenotes culminating in a wonderful concert tour to Italy. Our practicing year started again in September '06 when we returned after our summer break. We were delighted to welcome back some past members to the choir and also pleased to greet newcomers. We started working straight away on our new pieces of music for the coming year under the direction of our musical director Laura Brogan. We sang at the Sligo Choral Festival in November where we were awarded third place. Then during the year we were pleased to sing at several weddings and at Christmas we held a Recital of Carols in the Friary which raised over €1,000 for the local St. Vincent de Paul. We also sang to the residents of the local nursing homes.

When we returned to practice in January '07 we continued working on our pieces of music for the Festivals we had entered in both Limerick and Cork. In February some of us also started going to Italian evening classes with Mary Freeley as we were trying to prepare ourselves for our trip to Tuscany by learning a little conversational Italian. Mary had great patience with us and we all really enjoyed the lessons. We went to Limerick in March and took part in the Limerick Festival of Church Music where we were delighted to be awarded third place. Then in May we travelled to Cork to participate in the Cork International Choral Festival. We came fifth out of fifteen choirs in the National Open Competition and third in the Sacred Music Competition. We were very pleased with the comments of the judging panels and were given great encouragement as a choir. After these events, we concentrated in earnest on our musical programme for Italy. Not every member of the choir was travelling with us on this occasion, but as a choir we plan a trip abroad every other year so this gives everyone the chance to join us when they can.

Italy

Then, on July 8th we set off on the bus from Ballyhaunis to Dublin airport for our flight to Pisa, on our second trip to Italy as a choir. We

were all buzzing with the excitement of travelling to such a beautiful country. We were based in Montecatini Terme a delightful Spa town and each day we travelled out by coach with our guide Antonella, to visit various parts of Tuscany, travelling through the most beautiful countryside where mediaeval towns nestled on hilltops surrounded by fields of sunflowers and rows of vineyards and olive groves. Quite heavenly!

Our first concert was held in the beautiful walled town of Montefollonico in the Church of Triano. We were thrilled to have a good audience who really appreciated our performance. The local people were also very kind to us. They prepared a buffet of wonderful homemade local dishes including Polenta that were absolutely delicious! We all enjoyed our time there. Our second concert performance was held in the ornate Church of Santa Maria dei Ricci in Florence. Again we were delighted that the performance was so well attended and the audience so appreciative of our programme. It was such a wonderful experience to sing in a city that is so steeped in art and history. We made sure that we had free time in our busy schedule to enjoy being tourists in Florence, visiting the superb art galleries and places such as The Duomo, the huge cathedral that dominates the city, and The Baptistery, one of the oldest buildings in Florence where many famous Florentines were baptised.

We visited many places in this beautiful region including Sienna, Lucca and San Gimignano amongst others. We even managed to fit in some shopping bringing back great Italian style to Ballyhaunis! We had beautiful sunshine every day, wonderful food and wine, as much cultural input that anyone could possibly want and of course fabulous shopping! Our trip was a very successful one that I think I can safely say everyone of us enjoyed. It was fantastic!

Overall Gracenotes had a very full year and we are currently busy planning for the coming one. We are all looking forward with pleasure again to our Thursday evenings in the Parochial Hall when we will meet up with each other and sing!

If you are interested in booking Gracenotes for a wedding or any other event then please contact our Musical Director Laura Brogan on 086 821 3864 or Maureen Thornton on 094 96 30667.

Our A.G.M. was held in September and the following officers were elected – Chairperson: Maureen Thornton; Secretary: Laura Brogan; Treasurer: Eimear Thornton; Assistant Treasurer: Anna Henry; P.R.O. Moira Stratford; Librarian: Mary Dawson.

Hackneys

On a recent visit to my good friend and neighbour Tom Hopkins, he enquired as to what I was going to write about in this year's 'Annagh'. I told him I was thinking about the hackney men that operated in Ballyhaunis in my younger days.

Tom, with his great memory, went back in time to ones he remembered. He mentioned Farragher's (where George Delaney is now situated). They had a hackney service which was a 'brake'. A brake was horse drawn. I'm told that in 1912 the Ballyhaunis football team were coming back from a match in Claremorris in Farragher's brake. Coming down McManus' hill in Holywell the brake overturned. A man called Marty Morley was sent into town to get help. On arriving in town he told everybody "we were titanicked".

Tom also mentioned James Lyons of Main St. as having a hackney service. They had a hearse which used to be driven by Michael John Brennan and the hackney service was used to transport the bereaved.

In my own time, growing up in the '60s, there were a number of hackneys in the town. Top of the town was Mick Folliard. Mick was father of my good friend Kieran. Being Kieran's good friend meant that I always got a free taxi home from school on wet days. Mick also kept a very good garden. I was very fond of the lovely strawberries he used to grow.

Down the street in Upper Main St. was Paddy Kearns. Paddy was also the 'water man' for the Council. If I remember correctly it was Paddy who would drive the Mercy nuns in those days.

Further down the street was P.D. Freeley. P.D. also had a sweet shop. When P.D. passed away his wife May continued the



Taken on Bridge Street, Ballyhaunis, in May 1948.

On that day five taxis of emigrants for U.S.A. (including John Owen Cunnane and Peggy Cunnane pictured) and well-wishers left for Cobh from Tom Lyons' Travel Agency, Bridge St. L-R: John Owen Cunnane (Kilgarriff), Norah Boyle (Carrownedan), Bartley Boyle (Carrownedan), Peggy Cunnane (Kilgarriff), Tess Lynskey (Kilgarriff), Eddie Joe Cunnane (Kilgarriff), May 1948.

service. Many's the patient they drove to and from hospital.

Across from the church was Tommy Flatley. Tommy had a great knowledge of Irish dancing. He was a well known adjudicator at feiseanna around the country. I'm told that the Gibbons family and Behan family had hackneys near where Tommy lived.

Down in Barrack St. we had George O'Malley. George was often helped out by his brother Jimmy. I remember George driving my sister Mary to the church on the morning of her wedding in 1981. The O'Malleys also had the contract of bringing the mail from the Post Office to the railway station.

In Knox St. Liam Smyth had a hackney service. Liam, I remember, often brought us to football matches when we were kids. I remember Ballyhaunis playing a match in Sligo in the late '60s and Liam packed a load of us into his car so as not to disappoint anybody.

In Clare St. were Mick Mulhern and Bill Eagney. Mick had a pub and also drove the school bus. His son Eddie has carried on the hackney business. Bill was the first man I remember having a minibus. We travelled to a lot of underage games with Bill. Bill also had a school run and, more importantly to us, he projected the films in the Parochial Hall.

I don't recall any hackneys in Bridge St. or Abbey St. I'm told Gerry Dillon had a service, but I don't remember it. I do remember Gerry running the Western Bar.

There were of course hackney men from outside the town. Jack Costello from Bruff Cross, John Lee from Liscat, Tom Egan from Knock. Tom always drove the nuns from Knock into Ballyhaunis.

Most of the above I have mentioned have gone to their eternal reward. They provided a great service in those days. How many emigrants were carried by those cars to and from Ballyhaunis railway station?! Today in Ballyhaunis there are a lot of taxis in operation. However, I will always have special and fond memories of the Prefects, Anglias, Zephyrs and Consuls that were the hackneys of days gone by.

Eamon Murren



Jack Culliney, outside the Parochial Hall, 1940s.

Johnny Biesty honoured by GAA

Saint Patrick's Day was a proud occasion for Ballyhaunis man Johnny Biesty who received a GAA President's Award at Croke Park for his outstanding service to the association that has spanned over 50 years. Johnny is renowned for having always immersed himself in GAA affairs, both on and off the pitch and for both club and county, and remains one of the most popular and respected figures in local GAA circles. The presentation ceremony coincided with the hosting of the All-Ireland senior club finals at headquarters.

Johnny's administrative capabilities first came to prominence when he became secretary of Ballyhaunis GAA Club in 1957. While he was playing in Dublin he became Hon. Secretary of the prestigious Civil Service GAA club. Having completed his studies in the capital, he returned to Ballyhaunis and again became involved in the GAA at club, divisional, county and schools level.

He went on to serve as Mayo senior team selector, assistant Mayo GAA secretary, Hon. Secretary of Mayo Grounds Committee, secretary of Mayo and Connacht Vocational Schools Committees and chairman, secretary and manager of Ballyhaunis GAA club.

He was one of the prime movers behind the provision of the playing fields at the Knock Road and the development of squash and handball courts in Ballyhaunis in 1968.

Footballing prowess

His prowess as a footballer was no less impressive. Captain of the St. Jarlath's Junior football team, he was a member of the Connacht Colleges team that defeated Leinster in the 1956 Inter-Provincials. Scorer of 4-1 for East Mayo in a senior league final against Claremorris in 1957, that was to prove his greatest year as a player as he helped Ballyhaunis win a county Junior title, East Mayo to a senior championship crown and was a member of the Mayo Junior football



Johnny Biesty being presented with his GAA President's Award by Nicky Brennan, Uachtarán CLG

team that defeated Warwickshire in the All-Ireland final played in Birmingham. Further Senior and Intermediate club titles were to follow with Ballyhaunis until he called time on his playing career in 1968.

But that wasn't the end...in fact, it was only the beginning of Johnny Biesty's proud attachment with the GAA, his life-long service honoured in a fitting fashion on St. Patrick's weekend 2007.

Anthony Hennigan



1984 World Scout Jamboree, Chelmsford, Essex. Ballyhaunis Fourth Mayo Troop.

Back, L-R: Tony Smyth, Thomas Coen, John Durkan (Leader), John Forde, Ray Flynn, Donal Delaney, Tom Forde, Jonathan Cleary, Martin Durkan, Dr. Michael Cleary (Leader). Front, L-R: David Burke, Andrew Smyth, Keith Delaney, Martin Walsh, Enda Murphy, Arfan Rafique.

A Taste of Turkey

What do you know about Turkey? The answers given by people to this question are numerous and wide-ranging, and sometimes influenced by misinformation and propaganda either read in some newspapers or heard in mundane conversations. Some people equate Turkey's magnitude with the delineation and proportion shown in school atlases. The picture of Turkey portrayed in old atlases was certainly misleading though we didn't realise it, and on my first trip to Turkey the matter came home to roost when the car journey between Antalya and Alanya took nearly two hours. On the atlas at home Antalya appeared to be only a short distance from Alanya and I envisaged, which eventually turned out to be incorrect, that the car trip would take about twenty minutes.

Physical Features and Climate

Turkey is located halfway between the equator and the North Pole with a small section of its territory consisting of three percent in Europe and the rest of the country in the continent of Asia. The country is more or less rectangular in shape and mainly mountainous with the highest mountain Ararat, known in Turkish as Agri Dagı, located near its eastern border ascending to a height of 5,165 metres. According to legend this mountain is supposed to be the resting place of Noah's ark after the flood. Turkey has many lakes and rivers; Lake Van in the east is the largest in the country and also in this region the biblical and historic rivers of the Tigris and Euphrates rise, within eighty kilometres of each other before flowing south-eastwards through northern Syria and Iraq to the Persian Gulf. Turkey is approximately nine and a quarter times the size of the island of Ireland and about three times the combined area of Ireland and Great Britain. Many countries as well as seas surround Turkey. For instance it is bordered by Bulgaria to the northwest, Greece, and the Aegean Sea on the west; Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan to the northeast; Iran in the east; the Black Sea to the north; and Iraq, Syria and the Mediterranean Sea in the south. Turkey because of its size has significant differences in climatic conditions between the regions. The Istanbul region has a moderate climate. Rain can fall all the year round in the Black Sea region, which is the wettest in the country. The Aegean region has mild winters and warmer summers than in the north. The eastern and south-eastern regions have long cold winters with snow resting on the ground from November to April and sweltering heat in summer. The central region has snow but low rainfall in winter and dry, hot summers. The Mediterranean region is separated from Anatolia (central region) by the Taurus Mountains and has mild weather conditions in winter with moderate rainfall, but the summer months can be disagreeably hot. This last mentioned region is the one I go to on holidays and therefore because of my visits to the Mediterranean region I am in a better position to talk about its climate, nevertheless we cannot be too dogmatic about weather predictions because who in Ireland would have believed that we in the homeland would have had three months of bad weather this summer. Then again fears are understandably raised that as a result of global warming, certain zones within Turkey could undoubtedly become desert regions.

Population

Turkey has a population of about 71 million according to figures for this year. Over sixty cities or towns have populations of over 100,000. The major eight cities have populations as follows: - Istanbul – 10.25 million approx, Ankara the capital – 4.32 million approx, Izmir – 3.5 million approx, Bursa – 1.5 million approx, Adana – 1.27 million approx, Gaziantep – 1.1 million approx, Konya – 903 thousand approx and Antalya – 792 thousand approx. Less than one third of the population of Turkey live in rural areas, while the remainder inhabit the cities with a relatively small percentage of its inhabitants in the eastern and south-eastern regions.

Religion

Over ninety percent of the population is Muslim and these are Sunni with the remainder consisting of Christians and Jews. While some Muslim communities can apply the rules very strictly others by dress and demeanour are much more moderate and restrained in the outward expression of their religious beliefs. The country understandably has large numbers of beautifully designed Mosques and even in rural districts one notices their tall and slender minarets pointing to the sky. When in Turkey it is advisable not to wave or shake hands with a Turkish woman unless she initiates this type of greeting and when thinking about this custom, so common throughout Ireland, two Turkish happenings come to mind:

On one occasion a group of us went on picnic with a Turkish family to a location near the seaside. It is traditional for Turkish families to go on picnics at weekends especially on Sunday afternoons. The scenic place was specially designed for such outings with stone tables and benches situated within a grove of palm trees. Each group that arrived prepared the afternoon meal and cooked the chicken or lamb or beef portions on a small stove. As a rule a male member did the cooking at the picnic and used bits of wood and coal to light the fire. Lots of vegetables were consumed along with the meat and washed down in the case of the tourists present with beer, having the brand name of Efes. One member of our group noticed a good-looking girl wearing a green scarf at a table near us and went over to converse with her. He shook hands and tried to carry out a conversation though it was impossible because he didn't know Turkish and she didn't know English. Turkish members of our group were horrified and admonished him when he returned to our table. One Turkish man said that the scarf she wore indicated that she adhered strictly to Islam and if her husband were present he would have taken grave offence to the handshake and most likely would have reacted in an aggressive manner.

I remember a conversation in a pub on the outskirts of Mahmutlar one evening. Two Irishmen talked about an incident that took place earlier in the day in the foothills near the town. The older man hired a jeep and took his friend along with him for a trip in the countryside. After rounding a corner on the roadway they stopped on the wayside and admired the grandeur of the countryside resplendent with fruit trees and banana plantations and resting in the shadows of Taurus Mountain. One of the men saw a woman cutting grass with a sickle, an implement with a wooden handle and curved blade, in front of a hut and he immediately approached her and went to shake her hand. Little did he realise that the woman's husband was sitting near the side of the hut and saw what happened and immediately took offence. He came right away to the scene and argumentatively engaged the Irishman in conversation; needless to say neither person understood the other because one was speaking in Turkish and the other in English. The other Irishman realised the danger involved, fathomed that matters could get out of hand and a scuffle could very easily ensue, and instantly came to the rescue of his friend and got him back into the jeep. On the drive back to Mahmutlar they little by little figured out what caused the dispute or wrangle up in the foothills. They reasoned that the Turkish woman was a good provider and did most of the manual work around the small farm. Her husband believed that she was about to be kidnapped by foreigners and his main source of income would no longer remain, hence he was left with no alternative but to react in a belligerent manner. Therefore, to use one of my quotations: - a little bit of wisdom can be one's safe haven and keep one's jaw intact!

Language

Obviously Turkey's official language is Turkish and it is spoken by most of the population, though minority languages like Kurd and Dimly and others are spoken locally in ethnic minority communities.

A Taste of Turkey *continued...*

It is a difficult language to master and especially for us Irish. After the establishment of the Republic of Turkey in the 1920s Turkish changed from being written in an Arabic script to the Roman lettering. The word order is different from English and in simple sentences it is generally: subject, object and verb. There are two important characteristics to the Turkish language. First of all the pronouns, negatives and prepositions are joined to the end of a root word as a suffix, which makes it difficult to identify the root word, and secondly these suffixes are subject to changing vowel sounds. A few well-known expressions used by new visitors to Turkey are: Hello - Merhaba; Good morning - Gunaydin; Good-bye - Hoscakal; Thank you - Tesekkurler; How much - Kac para; Yes - Evet; No - Hayir; Please - Lutfen and OK - Tamam.

Samples of the three languages English, Irish and Turkish and how they contrast are shown in the following proverbs, and in a strange way the Irish or Gaelic seems to have more likeness to Turkish: (A) You can't win every game; Ni feidir gach cluiche a thabhairt leat; Sen her oyunu kazanamazsin. (B) Green are the hills far away; Is glas iad na cnoic i bhfad uainn; Yesil tepeler bizden uzak mi. (C) You are only young once; Ni thagann an oige faoi dho choiche; Sen olur sadece genc bir kez.

I felt envious of a Dutchman's ability to speak the English language, and when in conversation with him near Alanya one day he informed me that he could speak five languages: Dutch, French, German, Danish and English. I recounted - what he already knew - that the language spoken by most Irish people was English, though our first and national language Irish was spoken in only a few regions throughout our country. I also stated that we were not good at languages and though we spent years in school learning Irish and one or two continental languages many of us still couldn't master them. He described Holland as a very small country situated in the northern landmass of Europe and surrounded by large countries like France and Germany and having unrelenting communication as well as travel between them. In order to survive as a nation Holland had to be able to speak and fulfil business requirements in their neighbour's languages as well as the native tongue, and he said that once the Dutch mastered the linguistics of two or three languages others could be mastered much more easily. He was of the opinion and I concurred that it was our remoteness as a small island in the North Atlantic, furthermore the detrimental effects of emigration to the English speaking nations of England and America particularly during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries that caused the decline in the Irish language. England during her conquests of Ireland helped to anglicise and establish English as the main language, and many Irish saw no future in retaining Irish chiefly because countless young people had to emigrate to the lands of their English speaking neighbours. Personally in the past the education system put too much emphasis on grammar instead of on the spoken word and regrettably Irish or Gaelic was not spoken to any extent outside the school gates.



Sean Farrell, second from left, with friends at a picnic in Turkey.

Time and again we visitors to Turkey's southern coast speak Gaelic in the various hostels that are often frequented on such visits. We may only use the commonly known and concise sentences but in the eyes of the Turks the usage of the Irish language distinguishes us from the English tourists.

A Dublin girl recounted an experience she had in Mahmutlar on one of her trips. She told us that she got into conversation with a Turkish lad who worked for sometime in one of the Irish pubs and obviously over time had become conversant to some degree with the Irish language. When he insisted on speaking Irish she became discomfited, as she couldn't speak the language and conveyed her feelings: "At that particular moment I had hoped the ground would have opened up and swallowed me".

Sport and Exercise

Sport, like in other countries, plays an important part in the life of the people. There are ski resorts in the mountainous areas where both Turkish people and tourists go skiing. Because of its climate and expansive shoreline there is no shortage of swimming facilities and these are usually teeming in summer months due the many tourists visiting the country. Basketball is very popular and linked to soccer as most of the large football clubs have also basketball teams. While every city and town have teams in the different leagues the three main soccer teams are in Istanbul: Galatasaray, Fenerbahce and Besiktas. Most of the young children we met down on the south coast wear jerseys supporting either Galatasaray or Fenerbahce, and they play football regularly in quiet streets and in the parks. Fenerbahce won the Premier League in Turkey this year. There is more support within Turkey for Galatasaray because people have seen them on television play many games in European competitions, and this club team beat Arsenal to win the UEFA Cup in 2000 as well as beating European Champions Real Madrid in the Super Cup. The most famous and favourite player with the Turks is Hakan Sukur, a Galatasaray player. He is now in the twilight of a legendary career and we Irish remember him playing against us when Turkey defeated us in the playoff stages, and stopped us from qualifying for the 2000 UEFA European Championship that was hosted jointly by Belgium and Holland. As a matter of fact Turkey got to the quarterfinals of that

A Taste of Turkey *continued...*

competition. Two years later Turkey reached the semi-finals and became the third best team at the World Cup Finals that were held in Korea/Japan. The young Turkish males go to the pubs for the purpose of watching soccer games on television. One sees them having minerals but above all a noticeable pastime of theirs is to have bets on the outcome of games not only in their own country but those transmitted from Britain, Spain and Italy.

From Knock to Mahmutlar

I have travelled to Turkey on a number of occasions during the past two years. When it comes to such an undertaking my *modus operandi* remains much the same: a short car journey on a weekday afternoon to Knock Airport; Ryanair to London Stanstead; stopover in London of three to four hours before boarding a Cyprus Turkish Airline for the four hours' flight to Antalya in the south of Turkey and then a car drive - of over one hundred and twenty kilometres in close proximity to the coast - to Alanya and onto Mahmutlar. The return journey is similar except it commences in the early hours of the morning and the stopover in London varies and can be at times six hours. Therefore, it is obvious from the above description that it isn't plain sailing but rather an onerous and tiresome odyssey. One could take a flight from Dublin Airport to Istanbul and then take another aeroplane trip to Antalya but in these circumstances the person considered would have to make the long wearisome journey to Dublin, through the city to the airport, and a similar escapade on one's return.

On arrival at Antalya Airport, consistently in the early hours of the morning, visitors must pay ten euro for the mandatory three months' visa. Some people who intend to stay in Turkey for a longer period can overcome this stipulation by going on a short holiday to Cyprus at the end of the three months, and then renewing their visas for a similar time span on their return to the country. I have been informed that the boat trip between Alanya and Northern Cyprus takes four hours. People who own property in Turkey and have bank accounts in the country can also extend their visas by special permission from the police.

On leaving Antalya Airport the motorcar driven by a Turkish friend speeds along the motorway and the duration of our drive to Mahmutlar takes virtually two hours. We pass through some small towns along the route until we reach Alanya. This municipality is known as an "ilce" which means a medium sized city though the mayor of Alanya has submitted an application to the Home Office hoping that sooner rather than later it will be recognised as an "il" in other words a big city. This probably makes sense because of its sprawling appearance, multiplicity of small narrow streets and large population, especially the influx of tourists during the summer months.

Motorists in Turkey drive on the right-hand side of the road like most countries do and when changing lanes on the motorway they usually blow the horn as a warning instead of using the indicator. Turkish motorists for the most part are not dissimilar to the Irish and likewise show little consideration for slow drivers and beginners, blowing the car horns inordinately, but this inconsiderate behaviour call it road-rage is now a worldwide phenomenon. Irish motorists should be alive to the dangers when renting cars and driving on the Turkish road network. At the same time Turkish drivers wouldn't be found intoxicated with alcohol whilst driving motor vehicles on the streets and main thoroughfares.

On arrival at my humble abode I usually feel extremely tired. Dawn is mostly about to break over Mahmutlar and I take a few hours rest before tidying the little flat, conscious of the fact that its smallness generates orderliness, before calling to the local shop for basic food supplies.

My Mahmutlar Stay

Later in the day my rambles through the streets may take me to pubs and restaurants often visited on such Turkish holidays like for instance: Toros, Tolga's, Ugur's, Foleys and Murat's. There are many other restaurants and pubs in this locality, where tasty and delicious food can be consumed in an ethos vouched with a feeling of luxury. In reality its up to tourists themselves to seek out their favourite haunts in Mahmutlar's Little Ireland. Trial and error are the order of the day and an Irish person may be conned once but he or she is unlikely to be swindled on subsequent occasions. A person should seek advice from other tourists, in relation to dining out, and the knowledge gained regarding other establishments would most likely be invaluable during the remainder of his or her vacation.

At Mahmutlar we have international cuisine specialising in beef, lamb, chicken, fish and an enormous selection of delicious vegetables and ripe fruit grown in close proximity to the apartment blocks. Turks eat copious amount of vegetables and drink lots of tea. Turkish tea is prepared using two stacked kettles. The water is boiled in a larger lower kettle and some of the water is used to fill the smaller kettle on top and steep spoons of tealeaves though teabags are often used. When served the remaining water in the large kettle is used to dilute the tea, if needed. Tea is drunk from small glasses without milk. Pork is not available as Muslims look upon it as unclean although fries of rashers, sausages and pudding are served in Irish and English hosteleries. Good quality and well-cooked food is available to customers at very affordable prices in this Mediterranean resort. At Mahmutlar Town Centre one sees the natives eating Turkish cuisine and Ottoman traditional meals out-of-doors beside the footpaths.

On each of my trips to Turkey I visited with friends the fishmonger's restaurant, located in a grove near the coast and a few kilometres to the east of Mahmutlar. On our arrival at the restaurant we inescapably noticed the large aluminium box close to the entrance. We were told to select the fish for instant cooking. The fish were caught at sea earlier in the day and there was ample choice: all kinds and sizes and exceptionally fresh. The meals were sumptuous coupled with a wide variety of vegetables.

The absence of an alcohol culture in Turkey has to do with the fact that its consumption was forbidden during the long Ottoman rule and the Koran prohibited its use by Muslims. It sounds contradictory considering that Raki is the national drink in Turkey and consumed with many dishes. Efes is the number one beer and a favourite drink with the small percentage of Turkish drinkers and the great majority of tourists. I noticed in the bars that over ninety percent of young Turkish males who frequented such premises drink only minerals like for example orange, cola and sprite.

Most of my holidays in Turkey have taken place during the more tranquil periods and not in high summer: June, July and August. Though the months of late May and September can also be busy, hot and humid! Fair skinned Irish people should avoid holidaying in Turkey during mid-summer because the weather is exceptionally hot at this time of year, averaging forty degrees centigrade, and infestation by mosquitoes can cause serious health problems. But with all the construction work in Mahmutlar the colonies or scourges of mosquitoes are in constant decline. The mosquitoes have a preference for the blood of Northern Europeans and are partial to certain blood types. There are repellent ointments in the chemist shop near the clock tower at Mahmutlar Town Centre that can provide protection for people but those allergic to insect bites would be strongly advised to stay away in the hot season.

In my opinion the best possible time to visit Mahmutlar, and surrounding region, is when tourists are in sizeable numbers and there is entertainment at the resorts. For example ideal holiday visitation periods are from Mid-March to the end of May and again in October, though many tourists prefer the quietness of the winter months and thus shield themselves from the hectic competitive

A Taste of Turkey *continued...*

activity and inclement atmospheric conditions of Northern Europe and Russia.

Farming in rural Mahmutlar

Between the apartment blocks along by the coast at Mahmutlar and the Taurus Mountains most of the farming is done in the old fashioned ways that existed in Ireland earlier than the nineteen-sixties. One could even say closer to the beginning of the twentieth century! Everywhere one looked in these remote foothills a person noticed that the women undertook all the small farm chores. The women attended to the cattle, goats, sheep and poultry. They cultivated the fields and used sickles to cut grass and carry it on their backs over long distances to where the animals were housed. Occasionally I saw a tractor in action but more often than not it was the exception. I observed women digging with spades in the gardens and using shovels to clean out from animals. I also saw elderly women leading cows, tied with ropes around their horns, on the side roads to grassy locations close to the apartments and then tying the other ends of the ropes to nearby posts. Often newly sickled handfuls of grass were brought to these cows as well as buckets of water. Late in the evening it was a sight to behold as the women led their cows homewards to the cowsheds. I was reminded of a few lines from William Wordsworth's poem "The Solitary Reaper" but I must point out the Turkish women weren't singing: -

*"Alone she cuts and binds the grain,
And sings a melancholy strain;
O Listen! for the Vale profound
Is overflowing with the sound."*

*"Whate'er the theme, the Maiden sang
As if her song could have no ending;
I saw her singing at her work,
And o'er the sickle bending;"*

Mahmutlar Town Centre Markets

It is lovely to take an early afternoon stroll on the paved footpaths to the clock tower at Mahmutlar Town Centre. Near here the markets are held on Tuesdays and Saturdays and one can see at firsthand the succulent oranges, apples pears, bananas, etc. Also on sale are large heads of cabbage, clay covered potatoes, and a variety of vegetables. It is pointless for a single person, as one of my friends experienced, to make a small purchase because he or she would be presented with a rather substantial quantity of fruit and vegetables at very nominal prices. All kinds of clothes and merchandise are on display and the place is usually very congested with Turkish people in general out doing their weekly shopping. One can walk the few hundred kilometres at the orange, tree-lined Centre with its plentiful flowerbeds and view the different stores, restaurants and pubs as one passes by. One can have a pint of Efes in the open air at Ugur's for two Euro, equivalent to four Turkish Lira, and enjoy the great out-of-doors in conversation with other tourists. Alternatively one could view or purchase goods in the various stores in this locality. At the other end of the Town Centre is the bronze statue of Mevlana, a Turkish philosopher and poet of the thirteenth century. The inscription, in both Turkish and English on the plinth of his statue, reads: -

"Gel ne olursan ol gene gel" or "Come! Whoever you are, come again".

Conclusion

I hope you find some little snippets of interest in the above described 'taste of Turkey' and if the article is to your liking then a future 'second helping' will include features on my trips to Alanya, together with other sightseeing topics. I will close with the first verse from the

poem Davet ("Invitation" in English) written by Nazim Hikmet, who was one of Turkey's best-known poets of the twentieth century. This verse reminds me of that roughly rectangular landmass with its north-western isthmus, where once cometh the warlike and horse riding Ottomans:

*"Dortnala gelip Uzak Asya'dan
Akdeniz'e bir kısırak basi gibi uzanan
Bu memleket bizim".*

Or

*"Gallop from Far Asia and jutting out
into the Mediterranean like a mare's head
this country is ours".*

Sean Farrell, Treenreavough, Bekan



Teresa Melly (nee O'Connell) and Fr. Bart Delaney O.S.A., taken at Sean and Dolores Carney's wedding in August 1982.

Deadline for contributing articles and photographs for

Annagh 2008 is Friday, October 17th, 2008.

Email: annaghmag@eircom.net

Annagh would like to thank all its patrons, past and present. Please support local business and industry.

Leaving Cert Class of 1957

Going through my mother's treasures, God rest her soul, I happened to come across a picture of the Leaving Cert Class of 1957 and started thinking of where the seventeen had settled. I met Geraldine Costello in Castlebar the following summer and we talked about the fact that it would be 50 years in 2007 since we did Leaving Cert. I knew a few of the class were around Ballyhaunis so I decided to write them and see what they thought of a get-together. Kathleen McBride, Helen Hoban and Mary Teresa Ruane responded and were quite enthusiastic about the idea. Mary T. Ruane got busy writing letters. Ann Hunter Floyd, my neighbour from Lecarrow who settled in London, thought it was an excellent idea, so we were on our way to having a reunion of the class. Kathleen McBride did not let grass grow under her feet: she took up the reins and the emails were flying back and forth. The enthusiasm was building. The Ballyhaunis ladies rounded up six of our teachers and they planned a Mass at Knock Shrine at 3pm on Friday, June 15th, 2007 with dinner afterwards at the Knock House Hotel.

Now, when we finished up in St. Joseph's Secondary School, there was no great fanfare. We said our goodbyes and went our way. The Celtic Tiger had not found Ireland in the late fifties. There were four of the seventeen in America, two in England and the rest had settled in Ireland, two of whom became Sisters of Mercy: Sister Mary T. Ruane and Sister Geraldine Costello. What a tribute to the sisters who taught us! We were happy that eleven of the seventeen were able to attend.

The big night

On arriving in Knock with some questioning glances we gathered in the Church and there was lots of chatter and some tears on meeting the family of Maureen Lyons (RIP). Fr. Kieran Burke welcomed us all to Knock, celebrated Mass and offered prayers for Maureen and her family. Helen Hoban reminded us of how fortunate we were to have parents who sacrificed to give us a basic education and teachers who strived to give us a great love of learning and the desire to get further education.

It was then on to the dinner table, where we started down memory lane, "the more things change, the more they stay the same", we could have been back in class! Mary McGuire's wit and hearty laugh, Imelda Melly winning smile, Carmel Johnston's gentleness; the only thing that changed about Dor Morley was the colour of her hair, Catherine Biesty's organised manner and Helen Hoban, always a



Teachers and past pupils

Back, L-R: Catherine Morley, Carmel Johnston, Kathleen McBride. Front: Mary Freeley, Maura Griffin.

lady. Carmel Johnson came with a picture from "First Class": that was the highlight of the evening searching for names.

Sr. Oliver was just amazing; she was there to fill in the "gaps". She seemed the same as when she played "Ring-a-Ring-a-Rosy" at recess in the National School; she was our "Flying Nun". Then there was Sr. Ignatius who was way before her time teaching us of the famous artists in fourth class. She later taught us physiology. She was such a wealth of knowledge. Sr. Assumpta tells us we were her first class. She taught us Mathematics through the medium of Gaelic. I remember nights with the oil lamp struggling with algebra and trigonometry problems. The aroma from Sr. Margaret Mary's cooking class was the highlight of the week: that sponge cake will never be replaced.

It was exciting to have Miss O'Reilly (Maura Griffin) and Miss Haughey (Mary Freeley) join us. They certainly were very devoted teachers. Anne Hunter Floyd gave us lots of words of wisdom in her speech and paid tribute to the great job all of our teachers did preparing us for the "real world".

Again, we said our Goodbyes and went our way. Perhaps we will have another reunion one of these years, "Le Cuanamh Dé".

Carmel Hunt McDermott



Martin Caulfield Snr. (Drimbane), Jack Fitzmaurice (Abbeyquarter), Jim Healy (Drimbane, now resident in Wales) on Ferguson 20 tractor, Paddy Fitzmaurice. Taken in 1958.

Leaving Cert Class of 1957



St. Joseph's Convent, Leaving Cert class of 1957

Back, L-R: Anne Hunter, Helen Hoban, Geraldine Costello, Dorothy Morley, Nina Dyer, Carmel Hunt. Centre, L-R: Patsy Dalton, Mary McGuire, Imelda Melly, Mary T. Ruane, Maureen Lyons, Kathleen McBride. Front, L-R: Mary Brady, Carmel Johnston, Mary C. Byrne, Attracta Smyth, Catherine Biesty.



St. Joseph's Convent, Leaving Cert class of 1957, re-united in 2007

Back, L-R: Sr. Ignatius, Kathleen McBride, Maura Griffin, Carmel Johnston, Sr. Margaret Mary, Sr. Oliver, Mary Freeley (nee Haughey), Catherine Morley (nee Biesty), Helen Hoban. Centre, L-R: Imelda Mahon (nee Melly), Anne Floyd (nee Hunter), Carmel McDermott (nee Hunt), Sr. Geraldine Costello, Dorothy Collins (nee Morley). Front, L-R: Sr. Assumpta, Sr. Mary T. Ruane, Mary Timothy (nee Maguire).

Ballyhaunis Summer Festival

The Ballyhaunis Summer Festival 2007 took place over the May Bank Holiday weekend, and was an outstanding success. The varied Festival programme and fine weather combined drew hundreds of people into Ballyhaunis over the four days.

Inter Pub Quiz

The Festival began on Thursday night, 3rd May with the Inter Pub Quiz, sponsored by Local Business Promotions. The Quiz proved to be a very popular night out with lots of good natured competition! The questions were broadcast simultaneously from a local venue by M.C., John Aldridge. Teams consisted of all those present in each pub in the town. The winning public house on the night was Paddy Phillips, Main Street.

Annagh Rose

This event was held in Monsoon Night Club on Friday, 4th May. Twelve beautiful ladies graced the stage as finalists for the Annagh Rose. The finalists were greeted on stage by the popular radio personality Gerry Glennon of Mid West Radio. The girls were each escorted on stage by our four handsome gentlemen, Michael Goulding, Sebastian Lankiewicz, Alan Lucey and Shane McCoy, wearing tuxedos supplied by Eddie Murphy & Sons, Main Street. All the finalists received a silver chain (sponsored by Grascare and Curley's Jewelers), a long stem rose (sponsored by Irises Florists), and their name badges were supplied by Local Business Promotions. After the ladies had finished on stage with Gerry, the judges retired to consider their verdict. When they returned all the finalists were announced back on stage for the result. The reigning Annagh Rose 2006, Ms. Leanne Murphy, said a few words on her year as our Annagh Rose. The winner on the night was Siobhan McNulty representing the White House Hotel, Ballinlough. She received a cheque for €1,000, a cut glass trophy and a bouquet of flowers sponsored by Breege's Florists, Main Street. The tiara and sash were supplied by the Hazel Bar and Restaurant, Upper Main Street.

Fun Day for all

On Saturday, 5th May there was free entertainment all day in the Friary Field, with bouncing castles, slides and other attractions for young and old. Saturday night saw live music at the Square from 6pm to 12.00 midnight, where the main attraction was the up-and-coming rock band Whitewater.

Fair Day

On the Traditional Fair Day, Sunday, 6th May, there was a mix of multi-cultural activities and events throughout the town. Events included various nationalities demonstrating their national dance, activities and food on a traditional Irish fair day! Live Music was performed on the day on the grounds outside the Court House, by local traditional musicians, the winners of the battle of the bands competition and other young local musicians. A parade of dance and music circled the town leading up to the Friary Field at dusk, where the day ended with a spectacular fireworks display and entertainment by DJ Buzz.

RUA Star In Our Eyes

This popular event was sponsored by Connaught Scaffolding Ltd. The competition took on a new twist this year. Entrants were invited to dress up like their idols and perform. On the night of the final each finalist performed their routine before a very large audience. All the performers were nervous but overcame their anxiety with the help of the energetic crowd!

The winning act on the night was announced by Mr. Michael Grady of Connaught Scaffolding, who were the main sponsors of this event, the tension was high in the room and deep breaths were taken as

Michael announced that U3 – consisting of Shane Conlon, Francis Cunniffe and Adrian Lilly were the popular winners. After the winners thrilled the audience by repeating their routine, local band Diesel took over the entertainment and played till the wee small hours, and a great night was had by all. All weekend the local publicans and businesses hosted entertainment and novelty events in their premises and, all-in-all, proved to be very entertaining for all the family.

Thank You!

The Ballyhaunis Summer Festival Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all the sponsors for their generous contributions towards the running costs of the festival. Without the generous contributions from our sponsors the Festival could not take place. We would also like to say thanks for all the hard work carried out by our marshals and volunteers to ensure the smooth running of the festival, and safety of the participants and visitors. Due to the works carried out by all involved, this year's festival matched and exceeded the success of previous years.

Marita Byrne



Kevin Eagney



John Morley with his prize-winning Orpington cockerel



Ballyhaunis Summer Festival *continued...*



Jakub Jurak on a vintage Fordson Dexta



Annagh Rose 2007 Siobhán McNulty with Sergeant Ciaran McNicholas (left) and Sergeant Martin McDermott



Niamh, George and Brian O'Neill



Karen, Milo and Kevin Henry

Ballyhaunis Summer Festival *continued...*



*Left to right:
Pat Freeley
Luke Lyons
Christy Mahon
Tony Duffy*



*Eugene Freeley on his
vintage McCormack
International Tractor*



*left to right:
Caroline Fleming
Ann Murphy
Sandra Murphy
John Fleming
in front
Edel and Clare Fleming*



St. Joseph's Convent, Ballyhaunis. Holy Communicants 1977,

with Canon J. G. McGarry, Mrs. Betty Regan and Sr. Angela. Back row, L-R: Tommy Leonard, Stephen McCrudden, Thomas Ruane, Brendan Donnellan, Ivan Biesty, John Ryan (RIP), John McGing, Martin Durkan, Vincent McNamara, Jarlath Jennings, Barry Mulligan, Tony Morley, Patrick Biesty. 4th row, L-R: Seamus Geraghty, Tom McDonagh, Rosemary Timoney, Jonathan Cleary, Nora Maughan, Eileen McDonagh, Tracey Farrell, Bridie Levins, Cathriona Madden, Joanne Morley, Marian Biesty, Anne Marie Freyne, Attracta Greene, Bernadette Hunt. 3rd row, L-R: Daire Loughran, Paula Laffey (hidden), Enda Caulfield, Mary Frances Byrne, Alan Henry, Austin Jordan, Ashling Webb, Austin Finn. 2nd row, L-R: Joey Tighe, John Elwood, Colette Jordan, Elaine Walsh, Philip McGoldrick, Elaine O'Boyle, Johanna Morley, Philomena Phillips, Lizanne Fitzgerald, Michael Ryan, Denis Fitzpatrick. Front, L-R: Enda Moran, Martin Lyons, Ronan McDermott, Richard Hopkins, Paul Damron, Shay Cullinane, Mel Keegan, Gabriel Smith, Donal Delaney, Seamus Caulfield, Noel Phillips, Gabriel Morley.



Ballyhaunis Community School, Leaving Cert. Class 1987

Back row, L-R: Tommy Leonard, Seamus Geraghty, Mel Keegan, Noel Phillips, Alan Henry, John Flanagan, Paul Damron, Kieran Morley, Michael Crinnigan, Joey Tighe, Joseph Bailey, Tony Morley, Padraic Henry, Gabriel Morley, Tommy Glynn (RIP), Barry Mulligan, James Forde. 4th row, L-R: Martin Durkan, Michael Toughy, John Jordan, Brian McDermott, Enda Staunton, John Waldron, Paul Mahon, Eamonn Gannon, Kieran Greally, Donal Coggins, Seamus Caulfield, Richard Johnston, Ronan McDermott, Michael Ryan, John Quinn, Philip McGoldrick, John Glavey. 3rd row, L-R: Jonathan Cleary, John Elwood, Brendan Donnellan, Bernie Griffin, Fiona Griffin, Colette Jordan, Elaine Walsh, Cathy Mannion, Nora Maughan, Ursula Murphy, Marie Greally, Denise Neary, Bernie McHale, Martina Stenson, Tara Cunnane, Mary Carney, Marie Cleary, John Griffin, Liam Crinnigan. 2nd row, L-R: Helen Higgins, Hilary Lynch, Cathy Murphy, Mary Hunt, Elaine O'Boyle, Siobhan Harte, Lorraine Hurley, Martina McHugh, Bridie Levins, Maggie Finnegan, Ashling Webb, Maura Kenny, Anne Marie Freyne, Attracta Greene, Mary Frances Byrne, Joanne Morley. Front row, L-R: Richard Hopkins, Lizanne Fitzgerald, Paula Laffey, Joanne Fitzmaurice, Jodie Gavin, Carmel Waldron, Caroline Lyons, Doreen Brady, Sarah Kearns, Rose Marie Curran, Johanna Morley, Cathriona Madden, Rita Donnellan, Carmel Murphy, Sean Keane. Absent from photo: Bernie Hunt, Martin Kearns, Siobhan Harte, Patrick Biesty, Kathleen Meenan, Thomas Coen, Niall Delaney, Thomas Ruane, Enda Caulfield, Patrick Murphy, Brendan Joyce (RIP), John Joe Keigher (RIP).



Birthdays – Eighty years apart

Mick Kelly, Island, with his son Johnny, grandson Jason and Mick's brother John (Jack) Kelly, Sun City, Arizona, on the occasion of Jason's 1st birthday and Jack's 80th birthday, 4th Sept. 2007.



L-R: Paddy Judge, Dave Judge, Frank Garside in the late 1960's.

Half Dead and Alive

It survived the storms of the 19th century as well as the storms of the 20th century; it survived the big snows of 1947; it gallantly repelled rain, wind and snow of both centuries, and yet it partially succumbed to a tiny storm of Christmas 2006, which was no more than a little puff compared to the bullies that came before. Whether its age had finally caught up with it, or was it just the wind direction that took it by surprise - perhaps we will never know, but it was really sad to see it there beaten and broken, and nobody willing to remove it, or help it in any way.

The reason that nobody was willing to remove it was because I am talking about a very large Whitethorn tree, perhaps 100 feet in height, and which would be deemed a fairy bush in our locality - which may be taboo to all and sundry. Woe betide anyone that interferes with a fairy bush, the old people would say, it's neither lucky or healthy to do so. It was always said if a fairy tree fell that it was the end of the landowner as well.

My father had explained, in his own way to me, how the bush was there in his father's time as well. He understood it was a landmark marking out the plots in this particular field that each neighbour in the village had the grass of a cow in, and the old women would bring their cows and relax under the shade of this tree for an hour or two and, no doubt, have a puff on the duideen and talk about the affairs of the time (not the same affairs that the women of today would be talking about). Evidently, when the plots were done away with in later years and the land was divided up, the tree still remained with nobody willing to remove it, so that explains why it was in the middle of the field.

Many years ago (probably thirty odd) on the Frank Hall show (Hall's Pictorial Weekly) on R.T.E. there was a feature on a fairy bush in Leitrim and the owner of the land had long tine wires onto the bush from all directions, just like the aerial tine wires of today, and he was so afraid that if anything happened to that bush that the family was doomed. He really put the wind up me and I was scared stiff that if the bush ever fell, I could be writing my epitaph.

This fairy tree was my favourite location as a child: it was The Alamo that I defended with Jim Bowie and Davy Crockett; it was The Gunfight at the O.K. Corral: I fought Custer's Last Stand here and killed Indians of every tribe imaginable - Cherokee, Apache and Mohawks. I defended every fort in the Old West here, and rested up with Jesse James and his gang after many train robberies. I fought with the I.R.A. against the Black and Tans, and hid amongst its gnarled roots when they came looking for me; and of course they searched but could never find me there. I was Brian Boru here, I was Cuchulainn; I was all the heroes of '98; I was Michael Collins, and God knows how many more. I really think that Ardmore Studios was never in the hunt with me and my secret location for epics, dramas and the good old fashioned western.

In more civilised times I found buried treasure here (that I had buried myself, of course); I played shop with old jam jars, Irel Coffee bottles and sardine tins, and used the leaves as money. Indeed, I did everything possible that a young lad could do from the large overground roots at the bottom of this particular whitethorn fairy tree. At least if my parents were looking for me they knew that I had to be fighting some battle or other, and I was always amazed that they could know where I was every time. At least playing 'hide-and-go-seek' there was a waste of time as far as I was concerned. My late mother (R.I.P.) often reminded me of something that left me embarrassed, as apparently, I buried more than treasure here. After a long slagging from my sisters I apparently buried my dodie (dummy) here at an advanced age as far as dodies go, but what they did not know was that I rooted it up daily for an ould blast, clay or no clay. Talk about hygiene! - but I never came to any harm from tetanus or the like. If it was today they would be rushing one to the doctor or clinic. Anyway, the growing up process gradually took me away from

my safe haven and football became the big thing in my life. One day as I was passing the tree with the football in my hand I imagined I was Paddy Moclair playing for Mayo and wanted to see how far over the tree I could kick the ball. You don't kick the ball 100 feet up in the air at 9 or 10 years, even though you are Paddy Moclair, so the inevitable happened. The ball got stuck in the thorny branches and, to make it worse, I heard a gush of wind - no, not from the fairy tree but from my precious football. It took a few days for the fairies to release my punctured ball back to me, and I duly got it repaired, but I got a stiff reminder not to be kicking the ball into that fairy bush. I really thought that I was being paid back for neglecting the tree and that my addiction to football was the cause that the tree and fairies were vexed with me!

I remember the big wind 'Debbie' in 1965/66 and being stuck in Castlereagh with no means of getting home. John Hunts (record and jewellery shop) dad came to my rescue and gave me the loan of a bike, but I had to walk most of the way home as there were trees down all over the place. Anyway, to make a long story short our field of stooked barley was brought in the wind, our rick of hay was turned over, and galvanise removed from our buildings, but our fairy tree stood proudly in the middle of the field and resisted all attempts to dislodge it even though there were other trees down all over the place.

I have deliberately titled this article 'Half dead and alive' because there is hope for me yet as the fairy tree is not completely dead. Over half the tree is dead but about a quarter is still there and the other quarter is not completely broken off and has leaves growing, even though it is on the ground. Even though I won't be like the Leitrim man and put tine wires on the remainder, I would be still wary of finding it fallen some morning, as I still have a fear of the fairy tree, as old traditions die hard and we were brought up on ghost stories and Kitty The Hare and the like from Our Boys and Ireland's Own. The one consolation is that I have such pleasant memories of the innocence of my childhood and the fairy tree and I hope it (or what remains of it) will be there for future generations to wonder at how on earth a whitethorn tree came to be growing in the middle of a large field, and why it, and especially the fallen part, was never removed.

Murt Hunt



Dolores Carney (nee Melly) with her father Garda Tom Melly on traffic duty in The Square, 1960s.

End of an Era...As Holywell Gates Go Automatic

My Life and Times in Holywell

In the Spring of 1978 I was told that C.I.E. were looking for a Resident gatekeeper at Holywell, Ballyhaunis, by a friend of mine, Tommy Burke, who was working as relief there, and he recommended me for the job. I applied, did a medical, was successful and moved in on Sunday, April 23rd 1978, along with my husband Tommy and two young daughters, Carol and Sandra.

I settled in very quickly to my new life in this lovely village and soon got to know all the neighbours. The gate house always had a reputation for its warm welcome for visitors, and I was only too pleased to carry on that tradition. Friends, neighbours and even railway workers always found the door open and were made welcome and got a cup of tea, and that still stands right up to the present day. Our third daughter, Colette, was born in 1979, and then in 1981 Tommy died in a car accident, and I was expecting our fourth daughter, Caitriona. My mother moved in to help me, she loved the gate house too and all the activity it involved, she stayed here until her death (R.I.P.) in 2000.

Life was very busy with a young family and working the gates seven days and nights. In those years the road was closed at night and one had to open them to let traffic through, the neighbours were very thoughtful and only disturbed me in an emergency.

Changes

I have seen lots of changes over the years: so many of the neighbours have died and left so many great memories. I have to mention the first people I got to know and who have passed away: Tony Waldron, a frequent visitor; Jim Healy and Dave Judge, who used to take me to Mass in the Friary; and Mary Healy who thankfully is still hale and hearty and still walks up to me most days.

In the later years, I had much more time off with the introduction of other gatekeepers. My good friend Noelle started doing night duty and my daughter Caitriona worked on Saturdays. Now we work a new roster, which gives me more time off. My girls are all married now and live fairly near, and I have been blessed with six lovely grandchildren, whom I get to spend lots of time with, which I love.

It seems unbelievable that now the gates will be made automatic in the near future. I suppose that's progress. I often think now how hard it is for parents to have to go out to work and are rearing their children. It was great for me to have my job and look after my family. I will always be grateful to Iarnroid Eireann for that. I can stay here in the house as long as I need to. I hope I will get many more years to enjoy my life in Holywell.

Maura O'Dowd

Memories of Holywell Gates and Gatehouse

Michael and Margaret Lyons were in the gate-house for over fifty years. They came from Bekan; Michael, known as 'Ganger', worked on the railway line while his wife looked after the gates. She was paid ten shillings a year.

In those days cars were scarce. It was very busy in summer with horses and carts drawing turf from the bog nearby. The gates had to be across the road at all times. There were no phones in those days. Trains were quite frequent as they were the main form of transport, but they were travelling slowly. There was a signal a quarter of a mile on either side of the gates. There were oil lamps which had to be filled every week at the signals, also oil lamps on the gates. They sowed all their vegetables and potatoes along the line and cut the turf there too.

There was ten in family, all born in the gatehouse. They all emigrated to U.S. and England, but were regular visitors to the homestead. There is one surviving member, Paddy, who lives in Wales, eighty-nine years now, but he still rings to enquire about everyone. The parents lived to their eighties.

John McGreal and his wife Christina took over from 1950 to 1953. John was a ganger on the line and Christina looked after the gates. John and Christina are both now deceased (R.I.P.). Michael, their son was born there. He is now a County Councillor for Roscommon and still resides at Carrick, Ballinlough with his wife and family. Willie and Mary Armstrong took over then. Willie was a ganger on the line and Mary (R.I.P.) looked after the gates. They had four boys, Noel was born there and still works for Irish Rail as Health and Safety (Ex), also his son Liam is an electrician in Dublin for Irish Rail. They resided at the gatehouse for over twenty-five years. Ned Judge of Agloragh worked for thirty years as a plate-layer and still resides in the family homestead. Bob Fahey of Lecarrow was a ganger and worked for forty-one years. Both are retired now.

Edward Judge



O'Dowd family, Holywell Gatehouse, 1982.

L-R: Carol, Colette, Maura holding Caitriona, and Sandra.



Maura O'Dowd with her daughters, 2007.

L-R: Carol, Colette, Maura, Caitriona, Sandra.



Closing the gates for the last time
Noelle Keegan and Maura O'Dowd.



Inspector Noel Armstrong of Irish Rail, with former employees of CIE, Bob Fahy and Edward Judge.



All born in the Gatehouse, Holywell
L-R: Noel Armstrong, Carol Keane, Caitriona McGuire, Michael McGreal, Colette Flynn, Sandra Donnellan.



Neighbours All
L-R: Mary Mulrennan, Edward Judge, Anne Lynch, Bob Fahy, Seamus Waldron, Maura O'Dowd, Mary Waldron, Josie Garside, Mary Healy.



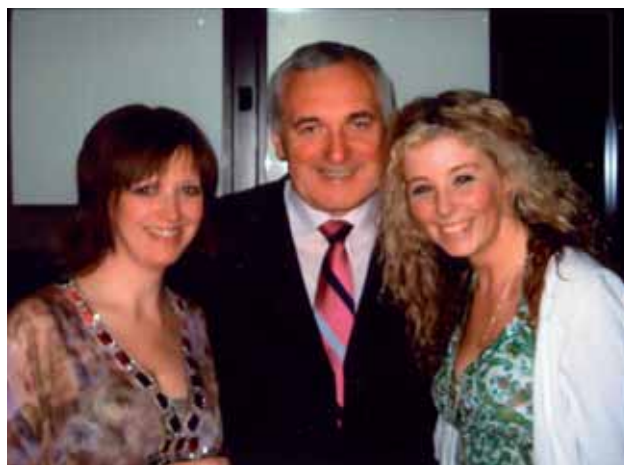
L-R: Mary Healy, Carol Keane, Josie Garside, Kevin Healy, Michael McGreal, Noel Armstrong, Michael Donnellan, Hannah Donnellan, Emily Flynn, Colette Flynn, Bob Fahy, Maura O'Dowd, Anne Lynch, Caitriona McGuire, Diarmuid Keane, Jonathan Flynn, Martin Keane holding baby Conor Keane, George Agnew, Sandra Donnellan, James McGuire, Edward Judge, Noelle Keegan.

Fianna Fáil

In truth, 2007 has not been the most memorable for the local Fianna Fail organisation, due to the loss of our local T.D., thus leaving the East/South Mayo region without effective representation in Dáil Éireann. Given the efforts put in by John Carty for the locality and the amount of money secured by him for numerous local organisations in the Ballyhaunis region, his demise was unfortunate and for many a source of deep disappointment, due in no small part to that mythical creature, the Mayo Taoiseach!! However his election to Seanad Eireann makes up in some small way for the loss and gives the local organisation a continued voice in the Oireachtas, where Senator Carty has been appointed Government spokesman on Agriculture, a position which he will undoubtedly use to good effect for our rural communities.

Nationally Fianna Fail continues to confound the critics and provide us with the stable Government this country needs, having been returned as the largest party, yet again. This in spite of the continued efforts of elements in the media to undermine our Taoiseach and party at every opportunity.

On an organisational level, the local party is in the throes of post election rejuvenation, which it is hoped will equip us to recoup the loss of support experienced in the Ballyhaunis area in the General Election. The onus has now turned to the recruitment of new members and the re-focussing on issues of local importance, as well as in putting a strong local party in place. We look forward to the



Kathleen Hunt (Larganboy) and Arlene Crean celebrating An Taoiseach Bertie Aherne's leadership in winning three consecutive terms in government.

local elections, with the confidence that we can easily return our two County Councillors to continue to work for this area.

Tommy Ronayne



Carlyn and Lauren with their 'Ballyhaunis Beaus'!



Connaught Jiving Champions 2007.
Helen Mallee (Kiltimagh), Francis Daly (Gorthaganny).



Dr. Annette Healy, Johnstown, who graduated with a degree in Medicine at U.C.D., Dec. 2006.

Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool

This year the pool opened a little later than hoped, but with the help of diligent parents, who helped with the initial clean up and Mayo County Council for all the painting and new equipment, we were ready to open the doors for another season.

Even though weather is the biggest obstacle we have to overcome, we do it every summer - good and bad. This year, as other years, our Water Safety Course proved to be a big success. We had an excellent tutor, Deirdre Donnelly, who proved to be a great hit with all the participants. We would like to thank our Lifeguards, Lisa Freyne and Louise Cleary for their work through the season, also our office staff, Lisa Jordan and Paul Higgins. We finished our season with a Gala organised by the staff. It turned out to be a very enjoyable day for children and adults. No child went away disappointed as there were so many races - freestyle, breaststroke, backstroke, and best of all, novelty races.

The overall trophy for most improved swimmer went to Joseph Lyons, Knockbrack. We would like to thank all who availed of the pool during the season, and hope to see you all again next year.

Agatha Higgins



Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool -Irish Water Safety Course.
Learning the back-stroke with Deirdre Donnelly.



Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool Summer 2007

Back, L-R: Paul Higgins (coach), Lisa Freyne (coach), Louise Cleary, Tasha Coyne, Lisa Jordan, Grace Lyons, Megan Carroll.
Middle row, L-R: Sean McDermott, Cyril Collins, Morgan Lyons, Haider Ali Mahmood, Moustafa Shaamile, James Lyons, Joseph Lyons, Lisa Hunt.
Front, L-R: Gary Higgins, Aoife Caulfield, Cathal Carney, Kasey Clarke, Hannah Clarke, Saoirse Caulfield, Jessica Carroll, Kaitlyn Clarke, Marina Carney, Radek Czerwenak.

Ladies Football – The Ballyhaunis Connection

Since the last edition of the magazine, Mayo Ladies Soccer and Gaelic Football have gone through the whole gamut of emotions, from victory in the final of the WFAI Senior Cup (Soccer) to defeat in the All Ireland Ladies SFC (Gaelic). In this article, we pay tribute to the Ballyhaunis players involved, and the gentlemen in management who guided them over the past year, in representing us locally, nationally and internationally.

WFAI Senior Cup Final

Starting in chronological order, history was made back on 2nd December 2006 as Mayo defeated UCD in the Final held at Richmond Park, Dublin, on a score line of 1-0. It was the biggest soccer match ever played by a team from Mayo and had been the first time they had ever played in a cup final.

It was 95 minutes of a roller-coaster of a game, with the one and only goal scored by Aoife Herbert of Killala. That's not to say Yvonne Byrne had an easy time of it in goal as she had several wonderful saves from the UCD attack. Her fellow team mate and Mayo Vice-Captain Karen Lilly also had a good game on the night. Team Manager is Aidan Flatley, formerly of Clare Street and now resident in Foxford.

UEFA Women's Cup Qualifying Series

Following on from their WFAI Senior Cup triumph, the Mayo team qualified for the UEFA Cup Qualifying Series in Austria, which took place in August of this year. Again this is the first time a Mayo Women's Soccer Team has represented their county at any level in an UEFA Cup. A total of 40 clubs from across Europe gathered in Austria in a bid to qualify for the knockout stages. A lot of the other teams were either professional or semi-professional with strong financial backing behind them and play between 30 and 40 games a season while Mayo play under 10 games a year as a unit.

Aidan Flatley, Mayo League Manager for the past four years, named a panel of 18 for the qualifiers in Austria. Their fixtures were as follows: Thursday, August 9th v. Sportowy GOL (Poland); Saturday, August 11th v. SV Neulengbach (Austria); Tuesday, August 14th v. Hibernian (Scotland).

The odds were stacked against Mayo qualifying from the start, with among other circumstances, the SV Neulengbach game clashing with the Mayo Ladies GAA quarter final, for which many of the team had to travel home - including Yvonne Byrne - and who then flew back for the third game against Hibernian of Scotland. Aside from it all, the squad did themselves proud by scoring 1 goal against Klub Sportowy. It is an experience that can only benefit the team in retaining the FAI cup this year.

WFAI Intermediate Cup Final

From national and International to club soccer - Kiltimagh/Knock United won the Women's FAI Intermediate Cup Final against Aisling Annacotty of Limerick beating them comprehensively 4-0 at Turners Cross, Cork on Sunday 26th August last. Ballyhaunis was again well represented by captain and goalkeeper, Yvonne Byrne and team-mates Karen Lilly, Edel Kilcourse and Lisa Webb.

In perfect playing conditions, Cora Staunton cored all 4 goals, 3 of which came in the first half. On their way to the final, the team defeated local rivals Westport, Dublin's Tolka Rovers, and in the semi-final they defeated Cork's Cobh Ramblers.

Mayo Ladies Senior GAA Team

The season may have ended in defeat at the hands of Cork in Croke Park last September, but that shouldn't overshadow the fact that it has been a fantastic year of achievement for Mayo Ladies. Earlier in the year they won the 2007 Suzuki Ladies National Football League - Div. 1 (beating Galway in the final), the Connaught Final (again

beating Galway) and Runners-Up in the All Ireland Final (against Cork).

The people representing the town were Yvonne Byrne in Goal, along with Frank Browne as Manager, and J.P. Coen as selector. Yvonne is a veteran player at the age of 24! She plays her club football with Hollymount and is the recipient of 4 All Ireland Senior medals, 3 National League titles and 5 Connaught senior titles. She was called up to the county team in 1998 and has played in centre back and corner back. This has been her first year as goalkeeper.

Both Frank Brown and J.P. Coen cut their management teeth in the world of hurling. Frank, a native of Wexford is living in Ballyhaunis for many years now and became involved with the ladies team in January of this year. He played hurling for both Tooreen and Ballyhaunis, as well as being manager of the Mayo Men's Senior Hurling Team. J.P. Coen, also a hurling player of note, joined the Ladies as a selector in early May having also previously enjoyed success in management with a number of underage teams and the 2006 All Ireland winning Mayo Minor hurling team.

The road to Croke Park was as follows: TG4 Connacht Ladies SFC:

Round 1- Galway 1-18, Mayo 1-07; Round 2 -Mayo 2-17, Sligo 3-07; Round 3 - Mayo 3-16, Galway 3-15.

TG4 All-Ireland Ladies SFC: Round 1- Mayo 1-19, Waterford 0-8; Round 2 - Mayo 0-16, Kerry 0-6; Round 3 - Mayo 1-13, Dublin 0-10;

Quarter Final - Mayo 1-12, Monaghan 1-07;

Semi Final - Mayo 2-13, Tyrone 2-8;

Final - Cork 2-11, Mayo 2-6.

Although finishing the final with a flourish, Mayo always knew they were up against it when drawn against Cork, who after all have been the top Ladies team for the past three years. In fact their only defeat this year has been at the hands of Mayo in April during the league campaign.

Finally, to quote the ever positive Frank Brown from an interview he did with Anthony Hennigan in the Western People last September following the teams defeat, he said, "I've had a great time. It's an honour and a privilege to be working with superb top class athletes and that's what these girls are. They're very focussed and they're very determined people. We'll go away and lick our wounds and see where-to from here, but I think there's massive potential in the team so we'll see what happens next". Indeed!

Sinéad Freyne



Pictured after Knock/Kiltimagh Utd. beat Limerick in the All-Ireland Soccer Club Final, 2007. Orla Casby (Knock), Yvonne Byrne (Ballyhaunis).

Ladies Football – The Ballyhaunis Connection



Padraic, Aiden and John Flatley with the cup in the West County Hotel.

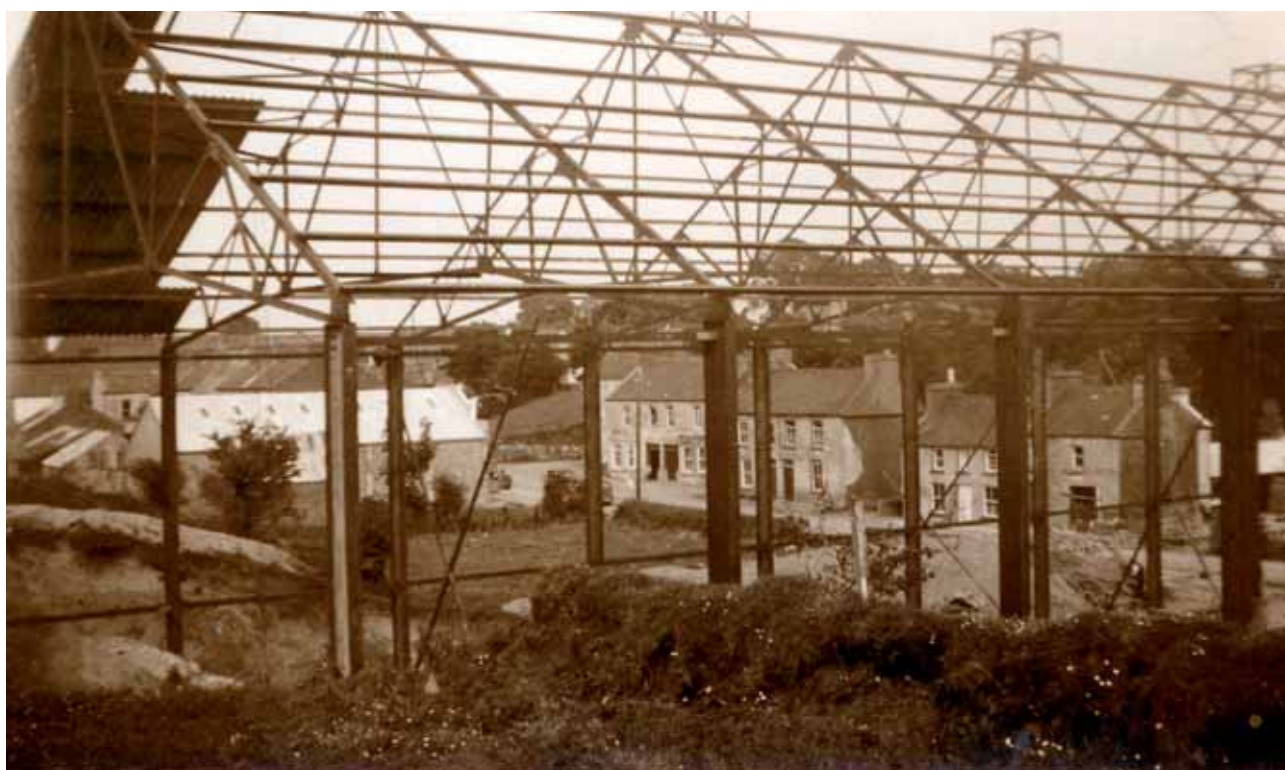


Pictured after Mayo beat UCD in the All-Ireland Soccer Final in Richmond Park, Dublin. L-R: Emma Mullin, Yvonne Byrne, Cora Staunton, Martha Carter.



*The Flatley family with the Ladies All-Ireland Soccer Final Cup
Back, L-R: Darren, Jonathan and John Flatley. Front, L-R: Aiden, Padraic and Corine Flatley.*

Reminiscences of Mike and Bridie



Steelwork of the Star Cinema being erected in 1945, with houses in Clare Street visible in the background.

As the cool shades of Autumn set in last August, after a horribly wet summer, Jim Landon and Séamus Mulrennan visited the home of Mike and Bridie Nolan in Cloontumper to hear, at first hand, about the building of the cinema in Ballyhaunis and the year of the big snow.

Building the cinema

The foundations for the Star Cinema were laid in 1945. There were spring wells at the back of the new building, and also a house owned by Pat Boyle who sold 'cheapjack' clothes at markets. A group of Scotsmen came and erected the iron framework. The walls and roof were then built up. The contractor was Bernie Byrne, while Clarence Grogan was the carpenter. Mike Nolan's workmates were Mike Duffy, John Dolan, Michael Mulkeen, Jim Boyle, Jim Dolan, John McCarroll and Willie Burke – all working for Bernie Byrne.

The working day started at nine o'clock, with a break at eleven, dinner at one o'clock, a break at four o'clock and finish at eight o'clock – six days a week. The pay was two pounds eight shillings a week, or three euro five cent in today's money. People cycled or walked to work; there were no holidays. Equipment consisted of a concrete mixer, shovels, wheelbarrows, timber scaffolding poles and timber crossbeams and a pulley to lever the buckets up and down.

The cement was delivered by lorry from Gallagher's and the lime came from a kiln in Ballinlough. Three hundred and fifty tons of concrete was shovelled and bucketed up to the balcony. Four inches of concrete first, then wrought iron then four inches of concrete again – all done with a pulley system. The walls were all mass concrete – with panels two feet high and one foot thick. The designs around the screen were done by Jim Dolan, Clarence Grogan and Pat Cooney. Jim Boyle did the plastering made from lime and sand called Plaster of Paris. The air vents on top of the roof were done by putting a line of poles along the roof. It was forty five feet up to them. They were done by Mike Nolan, Jim Dolan and Bernie Byrne. They took a few weeks to do, and the last one to be done was finished on June 1st 1947. The seating for the new cinema was

delivered by lorry.

When the cinema opened in 1948, owned by P. J. McGarry, patrons came from all over - Kiltimagh, Castlerea, Claremorris. Admission for the front seats was one shilling. Behind these seats was one shilling and six pence, and the balcony was two shillings. Films were shown on Thursdays and Sundays. Nothing was shown on Saturdays. Entertainment legends such as the late Jack Cruise and the late Joe Lynch also appeared in the Star Cinema live. Paddy O'Brien had a sweet shop across the road. The films were delivered to Ballyhaunis by rail. Among the projectionists were Bill Eagnay (R.I.P.), Michael Morley and Tommy Jordan.

Fair Days

Mike Nolan remembers seeing the many activities of the Ballyhaunis Fair Day from the roof of the cinema while working on it: cattle being walked to town, the lines of people selling hay out along Clare Road as far as Jimmy O'Brien's Mill where the oats were ground. The jobbers came in from the Railway Station. The cattle were loaded on the trains after twelve o'clock.

There were two hotels – the Central Hotel owned by Waldrons and later by Freeleys and Vahey's, and Holmes' Hotel, Bridge Street, later Hannan's electrical shop, and now a clothes shop. The people selling hay left it on the cart and delivered it to the customer. There was a weighbridge outside Griffin's house in Clare St. The bellman was Martin Duignan, Cherryfield. In the Square vegetables, oats and barley were sold, while the cheapjacks sold clothes.

"It was the year of the big snow
1947 - all of sixty years ago"

The Big Snow

It all began on the 5th February 1947. Mike remembers that it reached the top of the door. Fences and ditches were wiped out. There was a massive fall again on the 15th and 16th February. The railway line closed until the end of March, as did all schools. There

Reminiscences of Mike and Bridie *continued...*

were no phones of course. Food was home grown and cattle were fed inside. There was no paper; radios were scarce; people had to walk everywhere. Whirlwind type flurries built snow drifts up against buildings. Potatoes were frozen in the pits. Funerals were also unique as coffins were brought on improvised sledges pulled by horses up to the graveyard in Foxhill. The worst of it lasted to the end of March but there was still a lot of snow there on May Day.

Social Life

Bridie remembers times when people led a simpler and happier life despite the lack of money. She remembers her family shop in Cloonbook and spoke fondly of the travelling shops. They bought their tea, sugar and tobacco for the pipe smokers from Alec Greene, wholesaler; Bernie Lyons, wholesaler; Gilligan's, Claremorris; John Murphy Claremorris. They bought the bar stuff from Peter Hannon. The travelling shop was a pony and cart up and covered as far as Feamore, over to Brickens and Logboy. It did a run a day. The post was delivered in the area by Austin Cribben, Tom Cribben and Mick McCann. She remembers telegrams being delivered from Began and it cost six pence a telegram. The travelling shops were owned by P.J. Caulfield, Main Street and Foody's, Bridge Street.

So was it all work and no play? Of course not. She remembers the visiting houses where people met once or twice a week – such as Fergus's and Mick Brennan's, where people came from Lisduff, Johnstown and Lisbane. Of course weddings were held in the house after the marriage ceremony in the Church. A dowry was given to the groom by the bride, and there was no such thing as going away on a honeymoon. Speaking of houses, they were all thatched, mainly by their owners. A good thatcher in the area at that time was Ned Grogan. Bluestone was put on the thatch to keep the birds off it.

So, life was slower, people worked long, hard hours for very little. People visited each other and talked to each other more. Neighbours knew and helped one another. The food was home grown and plain. Both Mike and Bridie mentioned that visits to the



Mike Nolan in 1945

doctor were rare – only when it was a very serious sickness.

So, our chat came to a close. It was a privilege to meet and talk with two people who gave us an insight into the Ireland that they lived through, where, despite all the hardships of that time, they have survived to be happy, content and very interesting people to meet. Ní bheidh a leithéid ann arís. Thank you Bridie and Mike Nolan.

Jim Landon



The Phillips family, Cloonternane, Knock, meet during the Summer of 2007.

Back, L-R: John Phillips, Gertie Phillips-Carr, Tom Carr, Mary Carr, Sr. Clare Phillips.

Front, L-R: Cait Phillips, Samuel Phillips, Diarmuid Phillips.



Ashling Tarpey, Carrowkeel, received the accolade of 'Player of the Match' for the Under-12-A Girls' County Final held in Balla on 13th Oct. 2007. Ashling plays for St. Mary's Aghamore. The team faced Hollymount in the Final and, after a fantastic game of football, St. Mary's overcame them by one point. Well done to the Management team of St. Mary's, parents, and to the girls who gave us a great Final.

Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns

The Tidy Towns Committee is a small but very active group of volunteers who strive to create awareness of our environment in its splendour and its fragility, and the need to protect it and where possible enhance it. We work to improve the appearance of the town and its environs and to help make Ballyhaunis a better place to live in.

In the past year, we continued our programme of landscaping and flower planting in many public areas. We provided and maintained the hanging baskets on street lamp-posts, along the Friary wall in Abbey St. and on the river bridge. We also provided floral displays at the Friary church and house, the Parochial Hall and the courthouse.

This year we added a new dimension by providing three tiered planters in the Square. All of these enriched the atmosphere of the area with colour and beauty as they bloomed throughout the summer. From the feedback we have received from many residents and visitors we are pleased to know that they were much admired and appreciated.

We sincerely thank the willing volunteers who helped in putting up and maintaining the hanging baskets and planters; being a small Committee the extra help was much needed and appreciated.



One of the three tiered planters in the square.

Cleanups

We organised and carried out several local area clean-ups, the first of which coincided with An Taisce's National Spring Clean Campaign in April. We are grateful to the many volunteers who took part in the clean-ups.

We organised a Sunday morning street cleaning service for the summer months, and we acknowledge the support of Ballyhaunis Chamber in funding this service. We also thank Chamber for encouraging its members and the business community to enhance the appearance of their premises and the surrounding area, and for promoting the ideals of Tidy Towns.

We entered the town in Mayo County Council's Litter

Action League where towns of equal size compete in a league system each month from April to October. Inspections of litter levels are carried out each month and marks are deducted or awarded accordingly. This year Ballyhaunis has beaten all contenders and at the time of writing is competing in the final with Charlestown. The drive against litter has intensified in recent weeks as we strive to win the overall prize.

We encourage participation in Mayo County Council's Cleaner Community Awards, and we are very pleased that two awards came to Ballyhaunis last year. We congratulate Scoil Iosa, Abbeyquarter who won the county award for Best Kept School, and Aisling Drive Residents Association who won the county award for Best Kept Housing Estate.

Our annual Art Competition for the children in Scoil Iosa takes place in November. Last year we received some wonderful entries and ideas from the children's work, and the winning entries were laminated for display. Three prizes were awarded in each class and we are grateful to all the teachers and assistants in the school for their co-operation.

Draft plan

We carry out regular audits of 'things to be done' such as dealing with illegal dumping, upgrading of car parks, grass cutting, derelict buildings, road surfacing and marking, etc. and we meet with the local area engineer and local representatives to highlight these problems and have them dealt with.

Mayo County Council is currently preparing a new draft local area plan for Ballyhaunis. Our committee is actively engaged in this process with members attending the workshop and meetings held locally. We also made a written submission to the Council in relation to the plan in an effort to have our ideas and concerns taken into consideration.

We acknowledge the support of our sponsors who contributed generously during the past year and gave us the incentive to continue: Peter Cunnane of Cashels Engineering, Margie Phillips of Paddy Phillips' Bar, Ryan's Super Valu, Eddie Murphy Menswear, Cllr. John Cribbin, Peter McGuinness of Homecare Supplies, Ballyhaunis Chamber and all who contributed to our church gate collection. We also thank local residents and business owners who decorate their premises so beautifully, keep their local area clean and free of litter and support the ideals of Tidy Towns.

National Tidy Towns Competition 2007

We submitted our entry for the National Tidy Towns Competition 2007 in April and worked hard to have everything looking its best for the adjudicators' inspections in June. The results were announced in September and we were very pleased that Ballyhaunis was awarded 216 marks out of a total of 400, an increase of 10 marks on last year. Adjudication took place on 26th June. The following is a summary of the report received.

Overall Development Approach 39/50

The adjudicator commented favourably on the vast changes and achievements that have taken place in the town since his last visit as an adjudicator all of six years ago.

He complimented the Tidy Towns Committee on being very proactive in addressing issues of concern, and in establishing good relationships between the local authority, relevant agencies and the business community.

The Built Environment 29/50

The adjudicator noted the many fine established buildings in the town that are very well presented. Public buildings such as St.

Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns *continued...*

Patrick's Church, The Friary Church and house, and the Old Convent got special mention. Commercial premises such as Dillon's Travel and Colleran's Pharmacy were noted, and Gill's Pub was described as 'a credit to the owners and a supreme example of real Irish Pub Architecture', and was nominated for a traditional shop front award.

Mid West Radio broadcast centre and Hazelhill Medical Centre were noted as good examples of modern architecture blending in with the traditional. On the negative side 'the hoary old chestnut that is the Scout Den' was to the forefront because of its prominent position. A number of other sites around the town were noted; some had planning notices attached indicating progress.

Landscaping 30/50

A good even standard of landscaping was observed in the mix of both planned and natural planting arrangements throughout the town. The many colourful containers, hanging baskets and other forms of planters complemented the wild flowers and other well appointed shrub beds. The shrub planting along the river received special mention, and the children of Scoil Iosa were commended for their Tidy School Plan which has a large element dedicated to planting.

Wildlife & Natural Amenities 16/50

Cleaning of the river and other works in the town park were recommended as the basis for the good conservation of various forms of wildlife. It was suggested that the advice of the County Wildlife Ranger be sought to initiate a wildlife project such as the provision of notice boards on local fauna and flora. Central areas around the river side walk and in the town park were suggested as suitable locations.

Litter Control 26/50

The Tidy Towns committee was commended for its efforts in promoting participation in various anti litter programmes for both schools and other sections of the community. The support of the business community for the efforts of volunteers was noted. Despite this however litter was noted in some areas of the town.

Waste Minimisation 9/20

Although initiatives undertaken in this category such as promotion of composting are in keeping with the objectives of the Race Against Waste awareness campaign, the adjudicator recommended further involvement in the scheme. Inviting a representative from Race Against Waste was suggested.

Tidiness 12/30

A high level of 'erratic' car parking on the streets, the volume of traffic - especially the heavy variety - and the poor condition of car parks were the major problems identified in this category. These could be easily alleviated if existing car parks were upgraded and a proper parking code of practice implemented. In one instance 'erratic' parking of a shopping trolley in the middle of the road was observed!

Residential Areas 23/40

The standard in this category was described as very good. St. Gerard's Court and Esker Pines development on the Dunmore Road were favourably noted. A good standard of presentation of private residences within the town proper was observed and the owners are commended for the effort they make in this regard.

Roads/Streets/Back Areas 25/50

The Knock Road was described as 'very impressive with verges cut back, signs very visible and the entrance further enhanced by some impressive private residences'. The Roscommon entrance was also favourably noted; 'providing a nice vista as one descends into the

town, signs on this road were very visible and a good road surface was complemented by an excellent footpath that runs to the extremity of the town'. Other main entrances were maintained to an acceptable standard.

General Impression 7/10

The report states that 'Ballyhaunis is a traditional market town, with an impressive streetscape, that has embraced industry which has resulted in its expansion not foreseen a decade ago. It has coped well with this and with the cultural mix that the food processing industry has brought to the town'.

The Tidy Towns Committee was commended for its efforts to involve all sections of the community in putting the best foot forward for the betterment of Ballyhaunis, and for promoting the concept of Tidy Towns.

In closing

As can be seen from this article there is a lot more to Tidy Towns than picking up litter, and while the litter aspect is challenging, there is great satisfaction in making a positive contribution to our community.

As always new members are needed to join the committee as there are several other projects waiting to be undertaken. There are also many other aspects to the National Tidy Towns Competition such as heritage and wildlife conservation, recycling, composting that we are unable to explore due to lack of personnel.

If you can spare an hour or two each week, please consider Tidy Towns and make contact with any member of the Committee.

Committee

Chairman: Enda Murphy; Treasurer: Mike Griffin; Asst. Treasurer: Helen Biesty; Secretary: Mary Donnelly; Committee: Fr. Kieran Burke, Kieran Timoney, Enda Caulfield, Nell Rochford, Maura Patterson, Frances Maye, Gabrielle Lyons

Mary Donnelly



Aine Phillips, Castletroy, Limerick and Aine Phillips, Gurteen, Ballyhaunis. Not only do they share the same name, but they were born in the same month of the same year and their dads – Declan and Patrick – were next-door neighbours.

The Alternative Holy Land Tour

A week behind the wall in the West Bank, from the Palestinian perspective.

An M16 glinted in the sunshine, black sticky tape locking in a spare magazine of ammunition. The black paint had been scratched through to reveal the tin-grey. The teenager in jeans and t-shirt swung it around like a tennis racket while aiming the digital camcorder at the bulbous couple floating in the salty water of the Dead Sea, the lowest point on the planet and a lake lately hungry for the water the overworked River Jordan once supplied.

It was a Friday on the Dead Sea, a time for the non-observant and non Jewish of Israel's settlers to relax. The Dead Sea has shrunk in the past decade as the Jordan River feeding it has been drained by tomato and orange plantations run by Israeli settlers like those enjoying its receding waters. Older generations speaking American-accented English and Russian bathed and sunned while sons sat on plastic chairs showing off the family firepower. A youth, with the cropped hair and physique of an American footballer, cleaned a revolver before tucking it down his trousers.

Foreigners in their own land

All around tanned young Israelis recognized each other by the insignia on t-shirts that suggested army brigades. Eagles suggested air power. Rifles stood propped in the sand, next to bottles of sun cream and lemonade. There was an implicit threat in the strut of a group in denim, khaki as they strode by a party of young Arabs whose over-gelled hair set them apart as much as the colour and fit of their faded stonewashed jeans and Chinese t-shirts with silly captions that narrowed around the ribs.

These were foreigners in their own land, wearing clothes as unfashionable to their Israeli counterparts as the names of the towns they came from: Arab towns like Hebron, Ramallah, or Bethlehem. The Dead Sea is one of the few places where the car registration plates come in Palestinian green and Israeli yellow. We were green since we were with the Alternative Tourism Group (ATG), a Palestinian tour company based in the Beit Sahour district of Bethlehem. The company was established in Bethlehem in 1995 to draw in some of the benefits of tourism for locals.

"ATG was a response to 'exploitive mass tourism'", says the NGO's chief executive Samer Kokaly. He refers to large tourism companies bussing pilgrims into Bethlehem and other Palestinian cities from hotels in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. They're bussed back without little money in local businesses – or getting locals' views of the conflict between Israel and Palestinians.

Meaningful encounter

Operating out of an office next door to the Lutheran School of Beit Sahour, ATG delivers tourists the sights (we visited the Church of the Nativity and walked the Via Deloroso in Jerusalem) but also the uncomfortable recent history of the Holy Land. Run by scholarly, English speaking Palestinians – one of our guides doubled as a college lecturer – the ATG regularly guide academics, clergy and diplomats on trips to Palestinian refugee camps and local businesses as well as the region's well known religious sites. Before visiting the Deheishe refugee camp on the outskirts of Bethlehem we got a briefing from the Applied Research Institute in Jerusalem about the effects of Israeli confiscation of Palestinian land and (for settlement construction and security fences) on farmers' incomes and water supplies.

Such visits and briefings are ATG's guarantee of a "fair" trip to the Holy Land and a "meaningful encounter" with the local communities, says Samer Kokaly. To hear other views we were taken to meetings with the Jerusalem-based Rabbis for Human Rights and the Israeli Coalition Against House Demolition, both groups protesting the seizure of Palestinian land and the demolition of

Palestinian homes by Israeli authorities.

Local and international human rights organizations have focused lately on Israel's "security barrier," a giant concrete wall built around Palestinian territories. Ten minutes walk from the Paradise Hotel in Bethlehem, where most ATG groups stay, the barrier is a massive concrete wall which has caused 50 percent unemployment in the town – commuting to Jerusalem has become an hours-long vexing queue through an Israeli checkpoint – as in many other Palestinian cities.

The queues and x-ray checks have also deterred tourists, aside from the coaches filing in on day tours, from coming to Bethlehem. Pity, because despite the frustration of living in an open air prison, there's tea too in every Palestinian courtyard. Hot and sweet, the tea in Majdi Ata Amro's shop on Bethlehem's Manger Street comes off a stove set precariously atop a gas cylinder. It's a rudimentary way of making tea that mirrors the informality of the proprietor, a chubby man with a name and a language to match the customer. Murphy for the Irish, Muller for German nuns who come by.

Majdi made his living as a driver for the UN before turning his easy multilingualism into a business. He smiles and bends with whichever direction the wind is blowing, and many cruel winds have blown through this town. Leaving his shop, we climbed the hill to Beit Sahour past the shell of the Palestinian police headquarters which lays charred, weeds climbing through the rubble a year after being blasted by F16 jets which came swooping down from Tel Aviv.

Hebron

A circuitous route of by-passes and by-roads took us that day to Hebron. The shorter, normal way is blocked by piles of sand and earth. Security measures, we were told, and so we joined the locals in queuing and piling through the checkpoints and diversions until walking down the market streets. They're deserted now. Nobody visits, nobody shops, said the trader who begged us to buy a rug.

He followed us for a few hundred metres through the narrow network of streets, shouting that he hadn't sold anything for three days. Above us, the quietness of this normally bustling market town was explained. Mesh wire strung above the narrow street was weighed down with plastic bags of household waste, pegged over by hard-line Jewish settlers in the enclosure the other side of the wall.

It's their way of telling us they want us to leave, whispered the rug seller. The ring of Israeli Defense Forces steel defending 200 Jewish settlers in this Muslim town was interpreted and re-enacted during a visit to a local school. Children put on their theatrical re-enactment of the 1995 massacre in a local mosque. Teachers recounted spells in Israeli jails.

Sweat of slaves

The ancient history of Palestine is as compelling as its present. It was



The Alternative Holy Land Tour continued...

late afternoon when we scaled the yellow-grey hill of Herodion, perhaps the most outstanding of all Herod the Great's building achievements. Today it looms ominously like a volcano to the east of Bethlehem, part of a chain of fortresses built in the Judean wilderness built by the paranoid king. Thousands of slaves spent four years (23-20 BC) eroding one hill to build the fortress on another. What were "like a woman's breasts", as Roman historian Josephus said, is today the ruins of a three-walled palace built atop the remaining hill. The tunnels built through the hill to service Herod's court with water are still there, the stone steps damp with all the sweat of slaves who carried water and lamb carcasses to the king's kitchens.

A platoon of modern day soldiers sat about the remnants of Roman columns before eventually they pushed off down the hill in single file. A few hundred metres away they filed through a settlement of caravans and paddocks. A couple of ponies picked about in a muddy paddock. From Herodion you see settlements, brutish and invincible on the hillside, making the villages in the valleys looking haphazard by comparison. A soft-skinned Humvee appeared, then another, moving fast past the Roman columns at the foot of Herod's great hill before entering another fortress, this one made of steel and guarded by olive-painted watchtowers.

Ramallah and Nablus

In Ramallah we visited Yassir Arafat's tomb. It's less a cemetery than a huge car park. The simple headstone stands in front of a large portrait of the Palestinian leader, wearing his trademark olive green fatigues, a keffiyah and a wry smile. It was on this unremarkable piece of tar that an Egyptian military helicopter hovered for hours before delivering the coffin of Arafat to several thousand delirious Palestinians firing rifles and waving their green-white-red-black national flag.

Further north on the West Bank, Nablus had resistance written all over it, literally. Posters declared support for various factions and martyrs. Huge holes revealed the dust and broken stones of a dozen thick-walled homes, emptied of their inhabitants by a blast of artillery and grenades designed to blow a hole large enough for a platoon of soldiers to enter in the dead of night. Life goes on too in the bazaar, a network of stone alleyways and tunnels as old as some of the hills of olive trees surrounding this town, and certainly older than the mounds of earth and broken walls rammed together by bulldozers at military checkpoints regulating the entrance to the city.

In An-Najah National University students, cut off from the wider country by military checkpoints, use technology to tell their story. The university's MSN chat room proposal "aims to permit lecturers and students from and the International universities to discuss the important and controversial topics of the Middle East," said Saed Abu Hijleh, an energetic college lecturer who takes ATG groups through Nablus. Some of us who offered MSN addresses regularly chat to the students from all corners of the world, granting us a fascinating first-hand insight on the conflict, anytime TV cameras broadcast a Nablus gun battle to the world.

From Herodion to the Dead Sea, to Ramallah and Bethlehem, guns had pointed our way. They had also pointed out the history of this sad, enchanting place. Our last sight of Palestine was one of another M16, this time of a soldier checking our credentials before the Jordanian bus drove us across the King Hussein Bridge, into Jordan.

*The Alternative Tourism Group runs organized tours of Palestine. See www.patg.org
Mark Godfrey is a journalist based in Beijing, www.markgodfrey.eu*

Mark Godfrey



Thomas J. Carroll of Knox Street in St Peter's Square in Vatican City on 2nd August 2007.



Main Street in the 1950s

Jack Halpin's Vanguard car with daughter Mary learning to drive.

Maura McAuliffe, nee McGreal, looking on.

Note the date 1890 over Caulfield's (now Halpin's) door, which is the year this house and Byrne's next door were built.

Golden Anniversary



Seamus and Angela Cribbin, Drimbane (seated) with their family, L-R: Bernadette (Dublin), Seamus (Galway), Sinead (Knock), Anthony (Chicago), Josephine (Galway), Angela (Dublin), Michael (Chicago) and Philomena (Birmingham). Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh.

Earlier this year Seamus and Angela Cribbin, Drimbane celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Married life started for Seamus and Angela in the Church of Catherine of Sienna, Birmingham on June 29th, 1957 where the couple were married. After living and working in England for a number of years they returned to Ireland in the early 70's setting up home in Seamus' native Drimbane on the outskirts of Ballyhaunis.

The day of celebration for the Golden Wedding began in the Cribbin home in Drimbane where Holy Mass was celebrated by Fr. Austin Cribbin, first cousin of Seamus, and also a Drimbane

native.

Music and singing was the order of the night in the Belmont Hotel, Knock where Seamus and Angela were joined by up to ninety family members and friends. Among the large gathering of family and friends were all of Seamus and Angela's eight children and twenty-one grandchildren.

Their family and friends in the Ballyhaunis region congratulate Seamus and Angela and wish them continued health and happiness and many blessings in the years ahead.

Memories of Clagnagh

I am now Delia Connell, but I was born Delia Morley in the village of Clagnagh on 11th April 1911. My parents were Anthony Morley and Mary Ellen Mulkeen, who came from Cloonbook. They had seven children, Mary, Helen and Jim went to Chicago; Tom to Manchester; and John and Tony remained in Ballyhaunis.

Beside us lived Mick Morley and his wife Ellen Egan. They had a son Jimmy that stayed on the farm and a daughter Mai that went to America. She married a man called Reid from Lisacul, they had a daughter Margie that came home and lived with Mike and Jimmy.

Inside Jimmy's house lived Maggie Infant. She married John Halpin, Jack Halpin's father. On the other side of us lived Maggie Moran and her daughter Mary and a cousin Kate Higgins. Down the road lived Tom and Ellen Freeley: they had two daughters, Lizzie and Maggie.

Then there was Jim Freeley and Bridget, and Ned Egan. Then there was Delia Kearns and her husband Owen Lyons and their family Mary, Sarah and Davey. Next, Jim and Mary McGarry and Theresa; Mai and Dick Waldron; and Matt Walsh.

I will never forget 1947, the year of the big snow. When we got up in the morning everything was covered. It was hard to get to the pit of potatoes and the turf. Everyone killed a pig and we had him salted in the box.

I have one nephew, John Morley and his mother Mary in Clagnagh, and a niece Marian in Knock. They send me the Annagh



Delia Connell (nee Morley) with her nephew John Morley, Clagnagh

every year and I love it.

God bless you all, from Delia Connell (nee Morley), pushing on 97 years.

Delia Connell

Lecarrow Student Gets University Gold Medal

A young Ballyhaunis man has recently been awarded the highest possible academic honour from the University of Limerick (UL). Twenty-one year old David Connolly of Lecarrow, Ballyhaunis, won the coveted Gold Medal for achieving the highest Quality Credit Average (QCA) in the college in 2007.

David, who is the son of well-known furniture manufacturer Kieran Connolly and the late Mary Connolly (nee Burke), received the unique accolade at a special ceremony at the White House on the grounds of UL. He was presented with the medal by President of UL, Professor Don Barry.

The young man will continue his studies in Physics by studying for a PhD. He has been awarded a scholarship from the Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology. In October, he will begin his doctoral studies with the Charles Parsons Initiative – a research group developing renewable energy sources at UL.



David Connolly receives his Gold Medal from Prof. Don Barry, President, University of Limerick, August 2007.

Christmas in Poland

A Polish Christmas has many traditions. In Poland, Christmas Eve - December 24th - is the most important day for Christian people. Christmas in Poland lasts two days: 25th and 26th December, but the most important is the day before Christmas on December 24th. It is 'Wigilia' in the Polish language, and means 'Midnight Supper'. It is the day which decides success for the New Year. It is, therefore, very important to live this day in peace and good health, full of happiness, because by doing so we hope that the year will be good.

The most important Christmas rituals are celebrated on this day. The Christmas tree is decorated with tinsel, lights and glass balls, with a star is placed on the top. When the tree is ready and all the cooking done, the youngest members of the family look forward for the first star to appear. This star is a symbol for the star that led the Three Kings to Bethlehem on the night Jesus Christ was born. Once the star appears, a special rice wafer, blessed by the parish priest, called 'Oplatek' is broken into pieces and shared by all. Then people exchange good wishes with each other. Finally, the meal can begin.

The feast consists of twelve courses, one for each apostle. The table is always set with one extra seat in case a stranger or the Holy Spirit should appear to share the meal. Some Polish families spread bits of hay under the table cloth as a reminder that Christ was born in a manger.

The most important food eaten on Christmas Eve is fish (as opposed to turkey in Ireland) called fried 'cowp'. Other dishes on the table include a beetroot soup with dumplings filled with mushrooms, various fish and salad dishes; potatoes, vegetables, cabbage with mushrooms, pasta with poppy seeds. Also compote (a kind of warm fruit juice).

Once the dinner finished, all members of the family give each other presents and gifts, which had been put under the Christmas tree. Some people continue the evening by singing Christmas songs. Many families finish off Christmas Day by attending a special Christmas Mass called 'Pasterka' at midnight in the Church.

On December 26th, St. Stephen's Day, the Polish continue celebrating Christmas. The time between St. Stephen's Day and New Year is a time to have parties, visit friends and relatives. Christmas

time in Poland is a unique time when people try to be kind, friendly and generous to one another. It's a time when everyone tries to be peaceful and remember the real reason for Christmas.

This year Christmas is going to be very special for me, because my family have decided to visit me here in Ireland. I hope we spend a lovely time together, and that Christmas time in Ireland will be just as nice as in Poland.

Some Polish words about Christmas:

Santa – Ąwi'-ty Mi-ko-taj

Happy Christmas – We-so-lych Ą-wiat

Christmas tree – Cho-in-ka

Ewelina Gierek



Rudolph's Passengers!

A family of three house martins which were hatched out in July, 2007, at the front door of Gerry and Maureen Godfrey's home in Tulrahan. We feel they have booked seats for Christmas with Rudolph!

Ballyhaunis Fine Gael

2007 was yet another very busy year for the Ballyhaunis Fine Gael club. With a general election looming the club organised a series of meetings to plan their strategy for the election campaign. The club was determined that local candidate John O'Mahony would be successful in securing a seat for the Party in the East of the county.

The election campaign was in full swing long before the date of 24th May was decided on. The local club, lead by Cllr. John Cribbin, campaigned vigorously to ensure John O'Mahony's election to Dáil Eireann. There were great scenes of jubilation at the count centre in Castlebar as it became obvious that O'Mahony would romp home. The celebrations continued as a cavalcade lead the new TD throughout East Mayo. Huge crowds greeted Deputy O'Mahony as

he arrived in Ballyhaunis. He thanked local Cllr. John Cribbin, Club Chairman Michael Webb and the local organisation for their support throughout the campaign, and vowed that he would give the area solid representation for the duration of the Dáil term.

Deputy O'Mahony will be available to meet constituents on the third Friday of every month in the Parochial Hall, Ballyhaunis at 3pm.

Cllr. John Cribbin is available to meet constituents every Tuesday, 10am. – 1pm. in the Parochial Hall, Ballyhaunis.

Helen Lyons



St. Patrick's Day Parade, New York, 2007.

L-R: Cllr. John Cribbin, Kathleen Kalkbrenner (niece of the late Bernard McGovern, Derreens, Holywell), Sean Finn (Holywell and U.S.A.), Tom Rattigan (Knox St. and U.S.A.). In front, Katie Kalkbrenner.



Dancers from Elwood School of Dancing pictured with soccer legend Paul McGrath in Breaffy House Hotel Castlebar in July 2007. Standing, L-R: Emily Worden, Maria Lyons, Paul McGrath, Mary Elwood, Niamh Rooney, Grace Lyons, Tracey Regan. Kneeling: Ailish Phillips, Caoimhe Henry.

Ballyhaunis Chamber

In May 2007 Ballyhaunis Chamber held its AGM and a new President, Enda Caulfield, was elected to the Council Executive. Other Council Members are Tom Forde (Vice-President), Martin Fitzmaurice (Hon. Sec.), Alison Legg (Recording Sec.), David McConn (Treasurer), Vinny Biesty (Asst. Treasurer), Marita Byrne (PRO), Eddie Murphy Jnr., John Dillon-Leetch and William Nestor.

A new CEO has been appointed, Anne Cunnane-Marques, as Donal Shanaghy stepped down at the end of his two years. Anne's role shall be to oversee the activities of Ballyhaunis Chamber, B.R.C.I.E. Ltd. and Social Housing Ltd., all from the Enterprise Centre on Clare Road.

The following to date are the activities that the new Committee are carrying out. On the 29th June a meeting was held with Dara Callery TD, Cllr. Michael Carty, John O'Mahony TD, Cllr. John Cribbin and Tom Feerick, Mayo County Council, with an agenda on Ballyhaunis priorities such as the public car parks, the N83, the local bypass, the derelict buildings etc. At this meeting a presentation was given and the above were informed that a meeting would be called in October to discuss their progress on all the issues that were raised.

On the 3rd October Enda Caulfield, Martin Fitzmaurice and Anne Cunnane attended a meeting with Mayo County Council and their council executives. The following attended the meeting, Patsy Burke, Director of Services, Padraic Flanagan, Tom Feerick, Martina Sweeney, Pat McHugh, Tom Connelly, Michael Carty, John Cribbin whereby Ballyhaunis priorities were discussed. Patsy Burke stated that Ballyhaunis would be concentrated on in 2008. As a result of that meeting we understood that the following will be looked at in the immediate future. The existing Knox Street car parks to be completed, i.e. surfaced, lined, lit with improved accesses etc. An access from Main Street to be considered into Knox Street car park. Replacement of recycling bins from the upper Lochán car park to car park behind the former Carewell premises. Consideration would be given to alternative parking, serving Knox Street and Bridge Street. The car park along the river on Bridge Street is in need of repair (the current fencing is a danger to health and safety as it is in an extremely dangerous condition). Consideration will also be given to relocating the existing fire station to enable the extension of the library into the current fire station – both of which are inadequate. Funds are in place to secure The Scouts Den from unofficial access. Consideration will be given to extend the footpaths and lighting on the Knock road as far as the football pitch and housing estate. The derelict buildings in the town to be acted upon.

Town Development Plan

The Ballyhaunis Town Development Plan has also got underway with two public meetings held with Mayo County Council and their Consultants. The plan is now in its pre-draft stage and it is very important for the town that we all become involved in these meetings for the improvement of our town.

On Wednesday 17th October Anne Cunnane and Martin Fitzmaurice attended a conference in Athlone where Peter Malone, Chairman of the National Roads Authority (NRA) was a speaker. The question of the N83 and the local bypass was put to Mr. Malone as to when they would be serviced, to which the reply was that in 2010, once the Atlantic Road Corridor was complete, these may be looked at. He stressed that it was important for all Chambers to keep the NRA informed as to what works needed to be carried out in their areas.

On the 22nd October a meeting was held between the Junior Minister Conor Lenihan, John Haskins, Head of Integration, Anne Cunnane, Martin Fitzmaurice, Cllr. John Cribbin and John O'Mahony TD. Concerns were raised with the minister on the lack of funding from the Government for Ballyhaunis as we now have an

Asylum Seeker Centre and the National Orientation Centre for Refugees into the country. It was explained to the minister about the lack of facilities in Ballyhaunis – not only for the local population but for the International population, Asylum Seekers and Refugees alike. We asked the minister for funding to improve existing facilities such as the library, swimming pool, the fire station and for funding of a community centre as we feel that these are of vital importance to the town. The minister took notes and showed keen interest in what we had to say. As we put it to him, what we hear is "integration", but what we see is nothing, as there are no facilities in place. Anne Cunnane also met and spoke with Cllr. Michael Carty on the above topics.

BAH

On Thursday 25th October a Business After Hours (BAH) was hosted by Alison Legg and Paul McDermott in the premises of Local Business Promotions. This event gave a chance for local business owners and their friends to socialise without any hidden agenda, to meet and greet and to exchange business ideas/pleasantries. The night proved to be a great success and we hope to hold more of these events in the future.

In amongst all this activity Ballyhaunis Chamber & District Gala Dinner Dance was organised – thanks to a generous contribution from Amanda Torrens of Brookvale Manor Nursing Home. On the night of the dance a draw has also been organised, thanks to prize donations from the following: John Heneghan – Heneghan's Carpet & Furniture, Mary Smyth – Artist, Anne Burke – Artist, Kelly's Furniture, Anthony Waldron – Tunes, Noel Egan – Brogan Machinery, Eddie Murphy's Menswear, Tom Forde – 4Ds, Elma Kilbride, Dillon's Travel and Waldron's Electrical – Knox St. Also at work is the hardworking Summer Festival Committee for the annual May Bank Holiday Festival, and the Christmas Lights Committee in order to have Ballyhaunis town lit up for the Festive Season.

Ballyhaunis Chamber would like to take this opportunity to thank all its members and the residents/business owners of the town and surrounding area for all their help and support over the years as we look forward to the future and the betterment of the town. It is up to us - the people of Ballyhaunis - to strive for the town's improvements. If we, as a community, do not fight for, and have pride in our town – no one else will.

Anne Cunnane



Golfing great Arnold Palmer (left) with George Delaney, Abbey St. and U.S.A., after enjoying a round of golf at the famous Bay Hill Golf Club.

Diamond Wedding Anniversary

The 30th August 2007 was a very special and memorable day for the Lyons family - my parents celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary and later that week on 1st September their eldest grandchild (my son) was married.

My parents, David Lyons originally from Clagnagh, Ballyhaunis and my mother Bridie Morley originally from Cloonean, Tooreen were married on 30th August 1947 at the Church of The Holy Name in Manchester. The best man was a friend of my father's - Patrick Barrett (RIP) from Island, Ballyhaunis. The bridesmaid was my Aunt - my mother's sister - Peggy Morley-Halloran.

In 1951 my parents returned to live in Ballyhaunis. We lived in the village of Gurteen. Together with my sister Angela and brothers David and Brendan we attended the convent school. We all spent time in Sr. Carmel's class. We have many memories of happy times - the arrival of the circus was always a great occasion. We children were



David Lyons, Clagnagh and Bridie Morley, Arderry, Aghamore, on their wedding day, 30th Aug. 1947



David and Bridie Lyons cutting their 60th Wedding Anniversary cake



David and Bridie Lyons with their family.

Back, L-R: Maureen Lyons Doherty (Stockport), Imelda Lyons McGookin (Brisbane), Angela Lyons Kelly (Manchester). Front, L-R: David Lyons (Brisbane), Bridie and David Lyons, Brendan Lyons (Stockport).

amazed at the happenings at this event. Another big social event was the Carnival - I remember the "buzz" - people wondering who would have the lucky raffle ticket and win the new car! In 1963 my parents made the big decision to move from Gurteen to Manchester. Moving from rural Ireland to a city was a bit of a culture shock. But, being children, we adjusted as children do, and quickly settled into school. In 1964 there was an even bigger shock in store - the arrival of my sister Imelda!

When my son Paul and his then girlfriend Georgina Rudden announced their wedding date - September 1st 2007 - I realised we were in for a very busy, but very special weekend. As Paul and Georgina have a great love for Donegal and both have family connections there, they decided to hold their "Special Day" in Donegal. They were married September 1st at St. Mary's Church, Lagg, Malin, and the reception was held at The Ballyliffin Hotel, Ballyliffin. A very enjoyable day was had by all.

Celebrations

On Monday, September 3rd 2007 we celebrated my parents' Diamond wedding anniversary at The Strand Hotel, Ballyliffin. Relations from Mayo, Galway and Canada joined with the family for the celebration. Despite being a very proud Ballyhaunis and Mayo man, my father had to admit that Donegal was a great place for such a party! My parents were delighted to have so many family and relations around them. My brother David gave a very fitting speech - outlining their paths from Cloonean and Clagnagh to Manchester; from Manchester to Gurteen; from Gurteen to Manchester; and finally this special journey from Manchester to Donegal for this momentous weekend. They received many congratulation cards and good wishes from family and friends, near and far. However there was one surprise greeting card - this was presented by my brother-in-law Malcolm McGookin - it was a congratulations card from Queen Elizabeth! She and Prince Philip also married in 1947.

Well, we have all heard it said "you are never too old", and guess what, it's true! My father and my mother both made their maiden speeches that night! They spoke for a few moments to thank everyone for coming to share in their special celebration and they wished Paul and Georgina a long and happy life together.

It was a wonderful weekend - my parents' 60th Wedding Anniversary and my son's wedding. I, together with my husband and family say "Congratulations Mum and Dad" and "Congratulations Paul and Georgina."

Maureen Lyons Doherty

Parish of Annagh Baptisms, Nov. 2006 - Oct. 2007

Alesha Marie McGarry
Callum Martin Lyons
Aaron Martin Thomas Caulfield
Mary Ann Chickara McDonagh
Ruth Mary Greal
Maureen P. Ikhide
Patrick John Greal
Jason John Kelly
Jasmine Jurak
Nicole Amy McNamara
Rebekah Monaghan
Luciana Tatiana Ngángá
Lucy Anne Phillips
Kyle Burke
Victoria Konovalciuk
Jaimie John McGuire

Sarah Jessica Nally
Wayne Justin Maughan
Mark Feeney
Maeve Anna Caulfield
Ethan Michael Kilbane
James Michael Delaney
Desmond Rejoice Yobouet
Jesse Lumbwe Ikoli
Jack Thomas Mulligan
Dawit Dems
Magdalena Maria Manke
David Gossy Lestin
Jasmin Esther Madisala Musodi
Ian Michael Murray
Margaret Teresa McDonagh

Marriages in the parish of Annagh, Nov. 2006 - Oct. 2007

John Mongan, Station Rise and Martina Maughan, Cherryfield.
John Nolan, Lisbane and Rose Ann Frayne, Bargarriff.
Patrick Sheridan, Moyne, Co. Longford and Elizabeth Davitt,
Brackloon North.
Ian Cunnane, Bekan and Aoife Curran, Doctor's Road.
Ruairi Caulfield, Carrowkeel and Bridget Flanagan, Ballindrehid.
Martin Keane, Tooreen and Brigid Sloyan, Brackloon North.
Dale Swan, Namibia and Caitriona Curley, Hazelhill.
John Paul Finn, Main St. and Lisa Marigliano, Island.

Marriages elsewhere

Kieran Kelly, Drimbane and Denise McGough, Athlone.
Thomas Lyons, Lecarrow and Paula McAnenly,
Ballygawley, Co. Tyrone.

Michael Ryan, Derrylahan and Angela Martin, Kilmeena.
Timothy Plunkett, Drimbane and Cecilia Killeen, Carrownedan.
Gabriel Gallagher, Bargarriff and Emer Cunniffe, Tooreen.
David Zike, Seattle and Una Butler, Doctor's Road.
Justin McDonagh, Ballaghadereen and Tracy Cunnane, Knock.
Brendan Donnellan, Hazelhill and Eileen Feeney, Erriff, Bekan.
James Michael Waldron, Abbeyquarter and Breda Hynes, Tuam.
Thomas Lyons, Leow and Ann Ní Chonghaile, Carna.
Anthony Waldron, Island and Carmel Meagh, Coogue.
Mark Patterson, Knock Road and Lorraine Donoghue,
Clarinbridge.

Deceased of the Parish, Nov. 2006 – Oct. 2007

Ann Marie Mason, Classaroe.
Barry Butler, Doctor's Road.
Martin McDonagh, Tralee.
Maria Cribbin, Main St.
Michael Flanagan, Luton and Spaddagh.
Caitriona Finn, Upper Main St.
Sheila Conway, Clare St.
Mary Perry, Carlow and Ballindrehid.
Tom Moran, Main St.
Bridget Maughan, Station Rise.
Frank Leonard, Knockbrack.
Brid Cruise, Castlerea and Abbey St.

Marcella Fallon, Holywell and USA.
Mary Carney, Holywell.
Cathy Damron, Doctor's Road and Drogheda.
Ann Conroy, Oughterard.
Margaret Conboy, England and Johnstown.
Josephine Lyons, Brackloon North.
John P. Keane, USA and Knox St.
Stephen Griffin, Tavanaghmore.
Reuben Sykes, Leeds.
Bridie Lyons, Upper Main St.
Jimmy O'Malley, Barrack St.

Some Childhood Memories and Reflections

In our old age, particularly, we like to think on the past, from our earliest years on. All the more so since times are changing so fast, and the contrast between the ever-changing present and the past is increasing. 'Tis in that connection I would like to recall some incidents in my youth.

My earliest recollection is of my aunt and uncle having come from Boston. 'Twas then I heard the words 'trunk' and 'porter' for the first time, I think. I was four years old then. Our yanks used to engage a hackney to travel around. Once, when the car was outside the house, I secured a wisp of straw on it, and in my innocence I thought the car would go all the way to America with the wisp. I remember my uncle and a few of us with him teasing a cranky duck in a nest in the garden hedge who was unwilling to let us near him. There was dancing in the barn because there was more space there. I think it was common at that time, on the occasion of a party, to have a barn dance. I don't remember any more about it but I'm sure I enjoyed the music.

Creative Art

An incident I'm told happened, though I don't remember it, is when I was about two or three years old, my father was whitewashing the little wall that surrounded the flower garden at the front of the house. I was coming behind my father as he whitewashed. He had his back to me, so he didn't see or suspect what I was doing, until he had finished. He looked to view his handiwork, when to his horror he saw that I had undone his work by blackening the whole wall. You see I had something, maybe a cloth, which I kept rubbing on the ground which was dirty naturally, and applied it to the wall. That was my understanding of creative art, or I must be thinking in terms of black and white! Like Miley in Glenroe, my father must have exclaimed: "Holy God", but himself and my mother could only laugh, as I looked up innocently at them, wondering what they were laughing at.

When I was five or six years old I went, with others of our family, to the races in Tooraree. It must have been on for only about two years after I was old enough to go to them because I think they ceased when the war broke out. They were only a pale reflection of the famous races that took place up to around 1916, I believe. There was a grandstand for the latter in off the Knock road opposite Rochford's Motors now. The race-track, from what I've heard, would have come up by the Tooraree road and over by the Knock road as far as the shrine, I believe, and around, completing the circle.

Going back to the lesser races mentioned above, I remember buying an imitation pocket watch with a light thin silver chain attached. My other siblings must have bought some also, because my mother attached them to religious medals. I wouldn't call the queen my aunt when I bought the watch. I prized it above all my joys! It must have been the second year I attended the races that I bought a whistle. My brother bought an apple and he realised I had chosen the better part. He wanted the 'better part' – the whistle in exchange for 'his lesser part' – the apple – but I refused. It came to a few blows, but I stood my ground. The apple, by eating it, would give momentary pleasure, but the whistle, though giving a different type of pleasure, was more lasting. There's a moral in that!

School days

I remember a little of my first day in school. The nun gave me a dark, rich, chocolate sweet which I noticed had the same colour as the bench or form (pronounced 'Furm') I was sitting on. When giving me my place in the class, the nun said: "stay here in future". That was the first time I heard the word 'future'. Since it is an abstract word and young children can only think concretely, I thought it must mean something concrete like 'corner' or some part of the room. It being my first day in school, the nun would have given instructions to us in English, but later on Irish was used throughout the day when giving

orders or instructions. One order was 'Déan deifir' and 'deifir', to me, rhymed with 'heifer', the latter I would have known from our farm at home: that's what you'd call 'association of ideas and sounds'.

I remember preparing for First Holy Communion. It was the first time as perhaps with most of us I learned the word 'tabernacle'. I presumed, rightly as it happened that, in a child's language, it was the 'little house' on the altar where Jesus resided. We had practice receiving un-consecrated bread up in the convent chapel. We knelt at the altar rails to 'receive'. These latter were a lovely colour, which looked like real gold to me. I thought the chapel most beautiful and compact. If I knew a scripture quotation at the time to express my feelings about it, I would have said: 'This is no other than the house of God and the gate of Heaven or the Pearly Gates!' The Sisters will find such a description both flattering and amusing, but all the glory is gone from it now. As the poet would say: 'whither is it gone the glory and the dream?' I can imagine the wrenching it must have felt for the Sisters to leave such beauty, that applied to the convent, as well its location in such a lovely secluded place.

An Capaillín Bán

In High Infants among the songs we learned in Irish, there was one the name of which I got to know in later years as 'An Capaillín Bán'. I think it was Sr. Ita was playing it on what must have been a harmonium. The back of it was facing the class, and a black light cloth draping it. We hadn't seen its keyboard, and it was interesting to hear this mysterious sound coming from what looked like a big box. It must have been very old because it seemed to break down. The nun stopped playing and I think the song was abandoned. One lad beside me said: "There must be a mouse in it", because, I suppose, there was a mouse-like squeak from it or a mouse he thought might be nibbling at it inside.

When I went into first class it was a large room with two or three classes in it. I don't think there was any problem with that at the time in regard to any class being too loud for the other. Probably at break-time our class and maybe the others too would march around the classroom and out to the yard to the strains of O'Donnell Abu' on the grand piano. I didn't know the name of the tune then but my elder sister learned it in the senior class – in Irish, I think – and she used to sing it at home.

In the classroom to the right as you enter, there was what looked like the old-fashioned kitchen dresser in which were visibly displayed through the glass an array of leprechauns or low-sized, fat laughing men. They looked so real and when you walked past them, they would shake and dance and therefore, they would look all the more real. Their movements were due to the wooden floor which creaked as you walked past the funny men.

A man much older than I am, once told me that when he was in first class, a child from the class who had died, suddenly appeared as on a screen in front of them and they all naturally got excited.

We wouldn't know the time during class, but the nun would pull out her watch from under the white part of her habit to see the time. Also when adjusting the head-dress of her habit, it amazed me that having taken out the pins, she would re-insert them so skilfully that it looked like they were going in directly through her head. Perhaps, one could compare it to the skill exercised by a magician in avoiding slicing the lady in the box! I saw the latter being explained on TV and there is no mystery to it. It requires absolute skill.

To notify us that it was break-time, a pupil from next door would suddenly open wide our door with the words: 'Tá an t-am caite'. We learned the tables in Irish. I would have forgotten that but for one equation remains with me, i.e. 'Seacht naoi sé déag'. Our schoolbags were hung on a hook at the side of a press, and when we

Some Childhood Memories and Reflections *continued...*

were about to go home, the nun would take one at a time and ask: 'Cé leis é?'

To get back to my First Holy Communion – 'the feast that satisfies the soul' – was followed later by the feast that satisfies the body, which took place in the convent. It was a sumptuous meal with sweet cake in abundance which was a real treat for us. The War which was on for a while by now mightn't have impinged too much on food supplies, but later it would. Rationing would take place, and few people would be able to afford the luxury of sweet cake. One boy beside me, eating so much, said: 'I'll burst!'

Concert

There was a concert at the town end of the large room next to the grand piano. It may have been the day of the Christmas holidays, making Christmas all the more enjoyable for us. I can't recall much about it, but the song 'Any umbrellas to fix today' was sung. However, I remember one particular incident I want to write about. It concerned the magician and a girl from a senior class, because all the school were present at it.

watch on a girl - something surely very rare so long ago and he asked her for it. She gave it to him whether reluctantly or not. To all outward appearances he crushed it on the ground. What would any child do but cry when such a thing was done to their watch? So did this girl, her precious birthday present destroyed! But it was a happy-ever-after story when the magician restored it to her safe and sound. Her agony was changed to ecstasy. I had remembered her name ever since that day, and didn't I meet her in town this summer and I got some details from her about the incident.

The First Communicants before the War would receive fairly large religious pictures signed and dated for framing and rosaries, but our class suffered the causality of war. Some children would be asking the teacher - the nun - when we'd be getting the rosaries, and we did get them eventually.

Some others in my class at that time might remember those incidents, or have more detail on them or remember incidents that I've forgotten. If they put pen to paper

I'd gladly welcome it, as I'd imagine would many others also.

Bro. Gus Freeley

I don't remember any tricks the magician did except one, though he must have done many. He must have noticed no less than a wristlet



St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy, First Holy Communion 1963

Back, L-R: Liam Lynskey (Gurteen), Sean Biesty (Carrowkeel), Georgie Hannan (Bridge St.), Eamon Healy (Holywell), John Fox (Devlis), Liam Connell (Devlis), Joseph Byrne (Abbey St.). Second row from back, L-R: Tom Murphy (Tooraree), Kieran Healy (Holywell), Donal Moran (Knox St.), Gerald Griffin (Bridge St.), John Coyne (Ballyveal), Ted Webb (Main St.), Mike Griffin (Clare St.), Dominick Byrne (Clare St.), Tommy Barrett (Fair Green). Third row from back, L-R: Marian Mulhern (Upper Main St.), Anne Mongan (Cherryfield), Anne Coffey (Cherryfield), Joan Kenny (Skeghard), Teresa Regan (Lisbane), Susan Morley (Knox St.), Mary Kilduff (Barrack St.). Front, L-R: Sarah Herr (Knox St.), Helen Fitzgerald (Bridge St.), Nuala Moran (Upper Main St.), Mary Gilmore (Knox St.), Margaret Mary Carney (Holywell), Anne Halpin (Main St.), Helen Freeley (Main St.), Helen O'Dwyer (Abbey St.).

Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union

As we approach the 50th Anniversary of the Credit Union movement in Ireland, we look back on its founder member – Nora Herlihy. They were very far seeing people all those years ago. Even though we are in the 21st century the ethos of credit unions has not changed – ‘Not for Profit, but for Service’. Credit Unions are unique in that they are member owned and run by a voluntary Board of Directors and committees.

Ballyhaunis Credit Union is currently undergoing a period of major change and expansion. Our asset size is €17.5 million, our loan portfolio is € 7.7 million and we have in excess of 5,600 members.

We purchased a site in 2005, turned the sod in 2006 and the new Credit Union building will be open in Spring 2008. It is a time to look forward and join together so that the members will be proud of owning a bright, new, purpose built office. We will be able to offer new services, and have more privacy and comfort for our members.

The new services to come on stream in 2008 will be: Budget accounts, Bill Paying, Pay Path (where members can have their wages paid directly into their Credit Union account), a brand new website which will allow members to check their balances and apply for loans online. It will also give up-to-date information regarding credit union services, special loan promotions and news. So, all you computer whiz-kids have to do is, log onto our website at: ballyhauniscu.ie or email us at: info@ballyhauniscu.ie.

This year saw our longest serving staff member, Ina Freyne retire. Ina gave her time unselfishly to the Credit Union for 24 years both as a volunteer and member of staff. She always had the interest of the members at heart and was courteous, loyal and friendly at all times. She will be missed by the members and staff but will continue with her voluntary work. We wish her a long and healthy retirement.



Peter McCafferty, Chairman, Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union, presenting a bouquet of Flowers to Ina Freyne on her retirement.

was the case with us when suddenly, and without warning, our good friend and long-serving Supervisor Barry Butler passed away. Not only did Barry supervise the board, but he also guided it along the right path ensuring things were always done properly. He will be missed by the staff, the board and the remaining members of the Supervisory Committee. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dhílis.

Finally, we would like to thank all our members for their continued support and look forward to being of service them in the future.

Maura Murphy

As is always the case in this life good friends sadly pass away. Such



Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union officers and staff at Ina Freyne's retirement party

Back, L-R: Pat O'Connor, Frances Mulhern, Tina Kirrane, Sean Freyne, Margaret Byrne, Edward Mulhern, Rita London, Mary Rudden, Cynthia Fitzgerald, Maura Murphy, Stella O'Neill, Anne Greally, Katherine Kilbride, Madeline Niland.

Front, L-R: Peter McCafferty, Mary Matthews, Helene McCafferty, Ina Freyne, Patricia O'Connor, Justina Lyons, Gerry Lyons.



Anne May Nolan and John O'Shaughnessy married in St. Agnes Church, Crumlin, Dublin on 10th January 1955.

Anne and I first met in 1949. Anne was not long in Dublin, and I worked as a chauffeur in Raglan Road, Ballsbridge, for Lady Fitzgerald. Anne worked in Pearson's, Ballsbridge, where I used to get my cigarettes. I asked Anne out to a show, we went together for a while. We met up again in 1953 and we started going out. From there on we became great friends, got engaged, and got married in St. Agnes' Church, Crumlin, on 10th January 1955. We bought a small house on the northside as I had changed jobs and went as a driver for Kirwan's Funeral Directors. After having two children, Francis and Patricia, we changed house again and got a larger one in Coolock village. The pure air was great there and we had four more children, Johnny, Elizabeth, Theresa and Paul. It had a fine garden for the children to play in. Years went by and I retired after forty years working for the same firm. We got together and decided to move back to Anne's hometown, Ballyhaunis. By that time we had many lovely grandchildren. On moving from Dublin I found it very hard to settle here at first, until I got to know the people. Now I find it a very nice place to live. I am happy now that I made the move, the people here made me feel at home. God bless them all.



Winners of the Mick O'Connell Cup (Under-12), June 1986.

Back, L-R: Paul Nolan, Declan Byrne, John Waldron, Michael Lyons, John Higgins, Tom Lyons, Liam Rochford, John Neenan. Front, L-R: Darren Conlon, Michael Cameron, Michael McDonagh, John Kelly, David Nestor, Terry Maughan, Shane Burke.

Wedding Pictures



Sandra Laffey, Abbey St. and Derek Gilmartin, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary. Married in Ballintubber Abbey in 2006.



Kathryn Flanagan, Ballindrehid and Laurent Trias, St. Giron d'Aiguevives. Married in France in 2006.

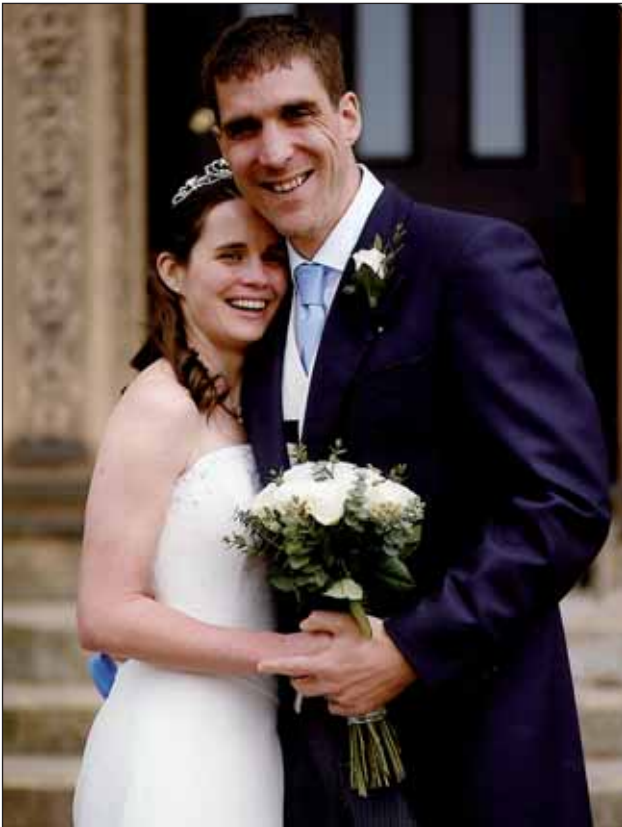


Roisín Thornton, Doctor's Road and Paul Carr. Married in Trinity Church, Douglas, Isle of Man.



Joelyn Fleming, Lavallyroe and Dermot Maguire, Moate. Married in Tiaz, Lanzarote.

Wedding Pictures



*Gillian Keane, Knox St. and Iain Edmondson, London.
Married in Loughborough, Leicestershire.*



*Sheena Korrane, Knockbrack and P. J. Fleming, Lavallyroe.
Married in St. Patrick's Church, Cloonfad. Stratford Photograpy.*



*Michael Lyons, Lecarrow and Ann Marie McCarthy.
Married in Our Lady's Shrine, Knock.*



*Rose Ann Frayne, Bargarriff and John Nolan, Lisbane.
Married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.*

Wedding Pictures



*Mike Crowe, Hazel Court and Catheriona McNamara, Lisdoonvarna.
Married in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Barefield, Co. Clare.*



*Brendan Donnellan, Clare St. and Eileen Feeney, Erriff.
Married in the Church of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Began.*



*Thomas Lyons, Lecarrow and Paula McAnenly, Ballygawley, Co. Tyrone.
Married in St. Malachy's church, Ballygawley, Co. Tyrone.*



*Gabriel Gallagher, Bargarriff and Emer Cuniffe, Tooreen.
Married in St. Mary's Church, Tooreen.*

Wedding Pictures



*Michael Ryan, Derrylahan and Dr. Angela Martin, Meath.
Married in Ballintubber Abbey.*



*Owen Finn, Lower Aghamore and Clare MacMara, Castleknock.
Married in Meath. Owen is son of the former Della Greally, Drimbane.*



*Barry Hunt, Lecarrow and Elizabeth McVeigh, Newtownforbes.
Married in St. John the Baptist Church, Knock.*



*John Flanagan, Crossard and Liz McGlynn, Frenchpark.
Married in Rome.*

Wedding Pictures



*Sinead Godfrey, Tulrahan and T. J. Chambers, Chicago.
Married in St. Linus' Church, Oaklawn, Chicago.*



*Gary Conway, Holywell and Edel Tucker.
Married in Castlebar.*



*Ruairi Caulfield, Carrowkeel and Breda Flanagan, Ballindrehid.
Married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.*



*Joanne Hosty, Lavallyroe and Dominic Cody, Lincolnshire.
Married in St. Flannan's Church, Kinnity, Co. Offaly.*

Wedding Pictures



*Breda Sloyan, Brackloon North and Martin Keane, Crossbeg.
Married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.*



*Justin McDonagh, Ballaghaderreen and Tracy Cunnane, Knock.
Married in Spain.*



*Mark Patterson, Knock Road and Lorraine Donoghue, Clarinbridge.
Married in the Church of the Annunciation, Clarinbridge, Co. Galway.*



*Dr. Erin Marie Sullivan, New York and Dr. Marcin Kowalski.
Married in New York. Erin Marie is daughter of the former Mary
Margaret Mullarkey, Tullaghane.*

Wedding Pictures



*Aoife Curran, Doctor's Road and Ian Cunnane, Began.
Married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.*



*Tom Lyons, Leow and Ann Ní Chonghaile, Carna.
Married in the Church of Mary Immaculate Queen,
Barna, Co. Galway.*



*Enda Caulfield, Knock Road and Sylvia Andrzejewska, Poland.
Married in Scotland.*



*Patrick Curley, Hazelhill and Hazel Hand, Tullamore.
Married in St. Colmcille's Church, Durrow, Co. Laois.
Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh.*

Wedding Pictures



*Timothy Plunkett, Drimbane and Cecelia Killeen, Carrownedan.
Married in St. Joseph's Church, Aghamore.
Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh.*



*Hugh Martin, formerly Doctor's Road, and Clodagh Dunne,
Enniscorthy.
Married in Bree Parish Church.*



*Evelyn O'Connor, Hazelhill and John Nolan, Clooncan.
Married in Castlebar.*



*Paul Doherty, Manchester and Georgina Rudden, Manchester.
Married in St. Mary's Church, Lagg, Malin, Co. Donegal. Paul
Doherty is son of the former Maureen Lyons, Gurteen and Manchester.*

Wedding Pictures



*Anthony Waldron, Island and Carmel Meagh, Coogue.
Stratford Photography.*



*Paul Finn, Main St. and Lisa Marigliano, Island.
Married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis. Stratford Photography.*



*Colette Jordan, Johnstown and Bernard McHugh, Knock.
Married in Mauritius.*



*Caitriona Curley, Hazelhill and Dale Swan, Namibia.
Married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.*

Wedding Pictures



*Michelle Aldridge, Larganboy and Mike Brice, Poole, Dorset, England.
Married in St. Patrick's Church, Cloonfad.*



*Joe Heneghan, Feamore and Therese Godfrey, Moate.
Married in St. Mary's Church, Logboy.*



*Maria Higgins, Devlis, Ballyhaunis and David Murray,
Rathdowney, Co. Laois. Married in Ballintubber Abbey.*



*Elaine Corcoran, Streamstown, Cloonfad and Declan Doyle,
Derrylea. Married in St. Patrick's Church, Cloonfad.*

Las Vegas wedding

Anthony Cunnane Jr., formerly of Bridge Street, Ballyhaunis, was married in Flamingo, Los Vegas, California, on June 30th 2007. His bride is the former Lynn Therrien of Montreal, Canada, only daughter of Mark and Michelle Therrien. Anthony is the son of Mary and Tony Cunnane formerly of Bridge St., Ballyhaunis. He is sister of Lillian Murphy and Kathy O'Brien. He is the third generation of his Mother's lineage: his granduncle John Regan still resides at Carrowkeel, Ballyhaunis; his paternal Aunt Chris Flatley resides in Lassiney, Ballyhaunis.

Anthony started school in the Convent of Mercy and received his First Communion in St Patrick's Church during his young life in Ballyhaunis. His many cousins the Boyles, Regans and Biestys welcome him home to Ballyhaunis on occasional visits. Lynn is looking forward to meeting all of you in the near future. Anthony and Lynn are happily settled in Elkhart, Indiana, U.S.A.



Scrigg, Leow and Kiltaboe Stations 1983

Left to right:
Vera Waldron
Noreen Brennan
Mary Kate Brennan
Muriel Murphy
Delia Grogan
Frances Mulligan



Left to right:
Gabriel Gallagher
Sandra Murphy
Timmy Plunkett
Deirdre Murphy
Patrick Gallagher
Caroline Murphy
Marie Gallagher
Padraig Murphy

Judge's Stations, Agloragh, 2001



Back, L-R: Eileen Lynch, Muriel Murphy (standing), Josie Garside, Angela Godfrey, Anne Marie Foody, Susie Ottewell, Edward Judge. Three children, L-R: Niamh Foody, Liam Foody, Muriel Ottewell. Front: Anne Lynch, Sean Ottewell.



L-R: John Waldron, Johnny McGarry, John Ruane, Fr. Patrick Mullins, P.P. Began, Charles O'Reilly, Edward Judge.



L-R: Agnes Heaney, Josie Garside, Muriel Murphy, Annie Hussey

Clare Court

“A little jewel in the heart of Ballyhaunis”

Clare Court is a housing development for the elderly and currently has 21 houses. These consist of 14 one-bedroomed and 7 two-bedroomed terraced bungalows. Clare Court Housing was allocated by a division of 3, whereby the local Authority, Safe Home Ireland and ourselves assigned houses from the individual waiting lists. Clare Court is centrally situated and is just a 2 minute walk from the local supermarkets, church and library. Clare Court is also only a 2 minute walk to the local bus stops and a 5 minute walk to the train station. There are also 3 medical centres in Ballyhaunis just a 5 minute walk away.

Our first residents moved into Clare Court shortly after their completion in September 2005. Phase 2 of our development is currently under construction and is due to be completed in 2008. Phase two will include a communal house and a greenhouse for the residents' use. This, we hope, will get our residents integrating and enjoying some outdoor activities.

Clare Court has a live-in Warden, Gerry Kilbride, and he is on hand to assist our residents with any queries, worries or security problems that should arise outside office hours. Clare Court also has a Grounds keeper, Michael McNamara. Michael takes care of the grounds, residents' gardens and surrounding areas. We have an office currently situated in the Enterprise Centre. This is open Monday – Friday 9.00am – 5.30 pm and is staffed by Anne Cunnane, Administrative Manager and Elma Kilbride and Mary Moylan, Administrative Assistants and Resident Support.

Special Features

We have always strived to insure the safety and security of our residents, so taking this into consideration, our houses are all fitted with features to cater to the needs of the elderly. These include, special non-slip flooring in the kitchen/living area, the hall and the bathroom. The bedroom floors are carpeted for comfort. Some of the bathrooms have baths, but to facilitate our residents who require it we have installed a wet-room in a number of the premises. These are equipped with a shower, shower seat and special non-slip floors. Our residents also benefit from a phone security system and panic button should they need them.

If any of our residents become ill we will arrange for the doctor or public health nurse to visit them. If they need, we can bring them to the doctor and collect any shopping etc. they require. We also keep in regular contact with residents' family informing them if needed of any changes in the resident's health.

Another area we are always trying to focus on is getting the resident out integrating and enjoying each others company. We do this through our outings, coffee mornings and media nights. We also sometimes have guest speakers come to speak to the residents on current and related topics. Our most recent outings were to Strokestown Park House and Gardens, Co. Roscommon; Lough Key Forest Park, Boyle, Co. Roscommon and Enniscrone Beach, Co. Sligo and the Foxford Woollen Mills.

Recycling and helping the environment is also something we aspire to promote in Clare Court. We recently installed compost bins for the residents use and we were lucky enough to have a guest speaker from Race Against Waste informing us and the residents on the importance of composting and recycling.

This year we have been very lucky to benefit for some funding to assist us in our continuous efforts to improve our development and the residents' social outings.



These grants were from the LDP, Kiltimagh, and the Community Foundation for Ireland. With these generous donations we purchased the greenhouse and the residents were able to enjoy wonderful outings giving them lots of lovely memories.

Here at Clare Court the future of our development is fundamental to us, and what we are aiming for. Our future plans include the communal house in phase 2 and also a new garden plan which we are calling “Four Seasons”. This is a plan to divide the gardens and grounds into four areas. Each area will represent a season, for example winter, summer etc., and these areas will include flowers, shrubs and other plants suited to the climates of each season. This will hopefully provide colour and substance throughout the year to Clare Court. Phase 2 is funded by the Department of The Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Our “Four Seasons” garden will, hopefully, be funded by the LDP.

For further information on Ballyhaunis Social Housing Ltd and Clare Court you can contact our office on (094) 9630311 or email ballyhaunissocialhousing@eircom.ie. Also you can view further pictures and information at ballyhaunischamber.ie

Elma Kilbride



Some Clare Court residents

L-R: Jim Connell, Gulzar Chaudhry, Anne Flanagan, Dolores Kedian, Helen Lenehan, Mary Stacey, John Joe Philbin, Joseph McGarry, Talib Chaudhry, Michael McNamara (grounds-keeper).

Ballyhaunis Fire Service



Members of Ballyhaunis Fire Service.

Back, L-R: Gerry O'Connell, Enda Caulfield, Michael J. Lyons, John Finnegan, Tim Plunkett. Front, L-R: M. J. Walshe, John Kilduff, Edward Mulhern, Station Officer and Mike Griffin. Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh.



Seamus Murphy, Mayo Chief Fire Officer (centre) congratulating John Kilduff, Driver (left) and Edward Mulhern, Station Officer (right) on the occasion of their retirement from Ballyhaunis Fire Service. Edward retired after thirty years of service and John after twenty four years.



The late John Keane, Knox Street (left) and Vincent Keane, Annagh. Friends since the 1950's but not related. Sadly, John passed away earlier this year.



Taken outside McGovern's house, Holywell, 1950s

L-R: Maggie Kelly, Kate Tarmey, Jack Grogan ('Dempsey'), Brian McGovern



Holywell farewell.

Peg McGovern's Going Away Party, prior to her emigration to the U.S.A., 1950s

Back, L-R: Brian McGovern, Jack Grogan ('Dempsey'), Edward Judge, Eddie Boyle (taxi driver), Mike Tarmey, David Judge, Charles O'Reilly, Tony Waldron. Front, L-R: Maggie Kelly, Lizzie Grogan, Mary Ellen Judge, Anne Grogan, Jack Judge, Kate Tarmey.

Ballyhaunis Abbey Partnership

The Abbey Partnership was established following the decision of the Council of the Augustinian Order in 2001 to commit the Augustinian Abbey and property for the benefit of the people of Ballyhaunis and surrounding areas.

The partnership aims to promote, through community development methods, the overall development of the property of the Augustinian Order in Ballyhaunis and in conjunction with local people to design and implement programmes and projects which will cater for the social, cultural, economic, educational and environmental needs of all people, particularly of those who are socially excluded.

2007 has been another productive year for the Ballyhaunis Abbey Partnership following the formal transfer of St. Mary's Augustinian Abbey and Grounds by the Augustinian Order to the local community under the 999 year lease signed with the Ballyhaunis Abbey Trust Ltd. – a company established by the Community Council, Mayo County Council and the Augustinians in 2005.

The property continues to be managed by the Ballyhaunis Abbey Partnership Ltd, who meet on a monthly basis to develop projects and manage week-to-week issues. The Partnership carries out this work on behalf of the Abbey Trust, which holds the lease and ensures the proper development of the property on behalf of the community, in accordance with the vision of the Augustinians and the terms of the 999 year lease.

The Abbey Grounds were fully open to the public throughout the year with people of all ages and backgrounds availing of this community amenity - using the Children's Playground and attractive woodland and river walkway on a daily basis. Thanks have to be expressed to the rural social scheme staff whose dedication and hard work maintain the grounds. During the year we said a reluctant goodbye to Joe Diskin who had maintained the grounds for many years, for both the Abbey Partnership and the Augustinians. However, this work has continued and great credit is due to Sean Biesty and John Joe Lyons for the development of the grounds this year.

The grounds were further enhanced in 2007 with the installation of park benches and lighting along the river walkway, which marks another positive step undertaken by the Abbey Partnership to further enhance this precious community amenity. The development of the grounds has also provided school children and their teachers with opportunities to engage in outdoor projects and small educational visits.

St. Mary's Abbey hosted a number of social and cultural events during the year. The Vocational Education Committee held their Open Day there during the early spring, as did the Community Futures group to present the Action Plan for the development of Ballyhaunis. Gracenotes Choir continue to use the Abbey building for their performances and the Mayo County Council Summer Music programme also continues with Resurgam - a renowned choral music group performing this year.

A fundraising concert for the Medugorje Youth Project was also held along with a video exhibition by the Old Convent Residents Committee and a welcome event for the Burmese refugees. St. Mary's Abbey also hosted an exhibition of stained glass works by Harry Clarke as part of the

nationwide Heritage Week along with a very successful evening lecture on his work and colourful career as artist and revolutionary. It is also hope to host a Science Event for teenagers before Christmas.

St. Mary's Abbey and the Friary House were completely re-decorated during 2007 as part of our overall maintenance and enhancement programme. Our efforts to improve access and develop facilities within the Abbey also continued during the year with the help of the Rural Social Scheme worker Maria Hunt who prepared and published an Illustrated Guide to St. Mary's Abbey for visiting groups and individuals. Unfortunately, we lost Maria when she was appointed to a position with a Galway museum but we hope to find a suitably qualified person who can continue her work researching and compiling the historical record of this famous site along with producing informational booklets, promotional material and arranging related cultural activities. Plans are still in motion to further develop and enhance the use of St. Mary's Abbey as a heritage and cultural centre, which will offer a more flexible and comfortable environment and provide another important amenity for the town of Ballyhaunis and the surrounding region.

The Partnership has also continued its work to develop the Friary House as a Centre for community learning and activity, with Mayo Vocational Education Committee rolling out their programme of courses after having moved into their new offices late last year. The Family Resource Centre continues to run their activities in the house and plan to open a new Community Childcare Facility here on the car park grounds in the new year. A number of other organisations have also held meetings and events, in the house over the last 12 months.

The tradition of the Abbey Pattern continued in 2007 with one of the best Patterns in a number of years taking place – helped along by a glorious summer's day. Once again full credit goes to the organisers, the Abbey Pattern Committee. The Pattern event followed the annual Mass held in the Friary Church with Fr. Kieran Burke as celebrant.

A number of positive developments are already on the horizon for 2008 with the new Community Childcare Facility due to be opened by the Family Resource Centre and HSE-West, and with the Scout's Den, which is one of the top priorities for development within the town and the Abbey Partnership for 2008.

The Abbey Partnership brings together eight organisations with its board composed of Chairperson: John Coll (Mayo County Council), Vice-Chairperson: Peter Cunnane (Ballyhaunis Chambers), Treasurer: Mary Donnelly (Community Council), Secretary: Stephen Grogan (Family Resource Centre); Anne-Marie Carroll (IRD Kiltimagh), Cllr. Michael Carty (Mayo County Council), Eugene Connolly (HSE West), Cllr. John Cribbin, (Mayo County Council), Anne Cunnane (Ballyhaunis Chamber), John Durkin (Community Council), Pádraig Flanagan (Mayo County Council), Michael Kelly (Community Council), Fr. Michael Mernagh (OSA), Joe Mullarkey (Mayo Immigrant Liaison Committee) and Enda Murphy (Community Council).

Aerial Photos of Ballyhaunis taken September 2006



A view of Upper Main Street with what was once the Fair Green behind, now covered with houses. Saint Gerard's Court is in the centre, with Beech Park to the top left and centre, and Saint Gerard's Crescent to the right. Freeley's stone house (now Dillon's) can be seen to the right, while the entrance to Moran's Terrace or 'the Dardanelles' (now gone) is a narrow opening between two houses along the street to the left.



A view of the Hazelhill estates from the north-east. Upper Main Street and Knock Road cut across the bottom, right hand corner, with the new Convent and Medical Centre in evidence. Aisling Drive is in the centre towards the bottom, Hazelhill Downs at the centre, The Maples in the top left, with Hazelwood and Hazel Lawns up towards the right. The ring road connecting Clare Road and Knock Road is along the top edge.

***Aerial Photos of Ballyhaunis** taken September 2006*



The ring-road through Hazelhill connecting Clare Road and Knock Road is shown in the bottom, left corner. Hazel Lawns is in the centre, with part of Hazel Wood towards the top of the picture. The old Hazelhill Road, now considerably widened, with the entrance to The Maples is visible in the top right corner.



View from over Hazelhill towards Doctor's Road. Upper Main Street and Knock Road runs across the photo from right to left. Estates visible include Hazelwood in the centre left with Hazel Lawns just below. In the centre of the photograph is Hazelhill Downs, with The Maples below. Aisling Drive is towards the top right. Above Upper Main Street, Doctor's Road and Beech Park are evident. The Rugby Club is partly shown in the top left hand corner.

Aerial Photos of Ballyhaunis taken September 2006



Ongoing building development in Hazelhill is evident in this picture taken from the Clare Road side, across towards the Knock Road. The town well is visible in the bottom right corner. The estate dominating the bottom half of the photograph is The Maples, which is accessed from the Hazelhill Road. Upwards and to the right you can see Hazel Hill Downs, Hazel Court, the New Convent, Medical Centre, Knock Road and the Rugby Club. At the centre towards the top can be seen Hazel Wood and Manor Brook, Tooraree with its industrial estate and the Community School. Hazel Lawns is along the left.



Looking towards the north-east, the townland of Cherryfield is shown almost entirely in this picture, with Devlis in the bottom right hand corner. The Railway Station is just right of centre. The Scout Den and part of the Friary Field is in the bottom left hand corner, with Abbeyvale estate just above, and Station Rise just above again. Cherrivale estate is just above the Station, while Cherryfield cottages can be seen along the centre right, with Cherryfield House in the distance.

Aerial Photos of Ballyhaunis taken September 2006



Esker Pines, Devlis. The Dublin Road through Devlis is at the very top edge of the picture. The large building along the centre top is Western Beverages, formerly Durkan's depot.



A view across Hazelhill, taken from over the centre of town, towards the south-west. Along the right edge can be seen Main Street and Upper Main Street with St. Patrick's church, and Knock Road with Rochford Motors and the GAA Pitch. Clare Street is visible in the bottom left corner, with part of Dawn Meats, Keane Kitchens, Star Cinema, Monsoon, Enterprise Centre, Clare Court, SuperValu, St. Patrick's church, all evident. Further up towards the centre are the new Hazelhill estates – The Maples, Hazelhill Downs, Hazel Wood, Hazel Lawns, Hazel Court, Aisling Drive. The ring road with Brookvale Nursing Home are visible towards the top.

Aerial Photos of Ballyhaunis taken September 2006



A view eastwards over the town from the Knock Road/Hazelhill area, showing Main Street, Upper Main Street, Knox Street, Bridge Street, The Friary, St. Gerard's Crescent and St. Patrick's church.



An unusual view of The Square, taken towards Knox Street showing Herr's, Morley's, Tarpey's, Bank of Ireland and Ford's, Knox St., as well as AIB, Bridge St.

Ballyhaunis Cemetery Committee



Inscribed stone at entrance to Ballyhaunis Cemetery, erected by the committee 2007.



Floral display at entrance to Ballyhaunis Cemetery.

This past year has seen more improvements to our local cemetery. The outer wall was painted and further flowers and trees were planted. Despite the poor summer, the array of colour was beautiful. This planting will continue next year.

This year we elected a new committee which is chaired by John Halpin. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the outgoing committee under the guidance of Henry Madden for all their hard work and determination. For the past nine years they have turned the area into a floral tribute and maintained the area to such a high standard.

We would also like to thank all those who have

contributed financially to the cemetery fund and worked to maintain the family plots. All your donations and help are greatly received. This all ensures that the cemetery is maintained as a fitting tribute to our loved ones. The committee would also like to thank those who assist in preparing and processing the envelopes for the annual collection

Chairman: John Halpin; Secretary: Helen Waldron; Treasurers: Walter Cleary and Tom Finn; committee members: Henry Madden, Edward Mulhern, Seamus O'Boyle,

Helen Waldron



The Connell brothers, Redford, taken in the "Sharoks Palais Royal", Manchester, 1955.

L-R: Pat, Joe, Michael (then Chairman of the Irish Association in Chorlton), John, Martin Connell (Garda, Ballyhaunis; no relation), doorman, Jim Connell.

Ballyhaunis Community School

Some snippets from the School Year Book, 2006-2007

Transition Years win Mission Alive Schools Competition

Well done to Ms. Murray and the Transition Years on winning the Mission Alive Schools Competition. The students had to organise a 'Welcoming' initiative in our school based on the quote from the New Testament: 'For I was a stranger... and you welcomed me (Mt. 23:35)'.

The students organised a 'Flag Day' involving all the nationalities in our school. A DVD and journal of events was also compiled. Our students were complimented by the judges for their 'good initiative and creativity'. The students were awarded ?500, which will go towards their trip to the Young Social Innovators (Y.S.I.) Showcase in Dublin in May 2007. Once again well done to all involved.

Y.S.I. – Young Social Innovators

At the start of the year we began our Y.S.I. project. We decided on a social issue in our community, which is 'Cultural Integration'. Our aim was to integrate the different cultures in our community by holding events, which would promote integration.

The first event we held was a 'Flag Day'. This involved painting all the national flags that are represented in the school and placing them around the Ballyhaunis crest, which showed unity within the school. This was our first step towards integration.

After Christmas we decided to hold our main event for the project, a 'Multicultural Day' in the school. We transformed four classrooms into 'Virtual Tours' of each culture to be viewed by first years. The cultures were divided as follows: Room 1: Arabic Room (Azerbaijan, Kurdistan, Iraq, Syria, Pakistan); Room 2: Eastern European Room (Slovakia, Latvia, Russia, Poland, Croatia,

Lithuania); Room 3: Anglo-Saxon Room (England, Ireland, Australia, America, The Travelling Community); Room 4: African Room (Kenya, South Africa).

Before the tour began Arfan Rafique, representing the Arabic countries in the Ballyhaunis community opened the day by giving a presentation to the first years on how Ballyhaunis has changed over the years and why people come to live here. This was a great introduction and set the tone for the day. In each room there were displays of musical instruments, national symbols, clothing and artefacts. There was also food tasting and native music being played. Most of the transition years had to give a presentation on the cultures but some representatives gave a presentation on their own cultures. At the end of the day, a table quiz was held based on what the first years had learned throughout the day. The transition years as a whole think this day has hugely promoted cultural integration in our school and we hope it will become an annual event.

A few weeks after our Multicultural Day we were approached by the Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce to be joint organisers of the annual May Bank Holiday Festival. After hearing about our project they decided to make the festival international in style. There was food, ornaments, music, dance, national clothing and flags on display from different countries. All cultures came together to organize and carried out this event successfully and we hope that this idea will continue for many more years in Ballyhaunis.

To promote our project even further than Ballyhaunis we have set up a website <http://bcs-ty07.tripod.com> which includes information on everything we have done this past year and what we hope to achieve in the future.

Sara Lenaghan



Mission Alive

Eamonn Fitzmaurice, Ms. Anna Henry, Thomas Geraghty, Brian Waldron, Adrian Melvin, Mark Forde, Liam McDermott, Orla Lyons, David McNamara, Eimear Hill, Patrick Freeley, Evelyn Kearns, Louise Joyce, Orla Shannon, Sara Lenaghan, Spokesperson for Mission Alive.

Front: Sandra Forde, Sinéad Higgins, Nicola Kilkenney, Emma Forde and Kaitlyn Brady.

Ballyhaunis Community School continued...



Norway Trip - Students after their skiing lesson:

Eimear Hill, Emma Jenkins, Sinéad Higgins, Caroline Cleary, Nicola Kilkenny, Kaitlyn Brady, Sinéad Fahy, Sandra Forde and Orla Lyons.

Ski Trip to Norway

It was Friday, February 16th finally! We gathered in the Bus Park at 10.30am and loaded up for the long awaited Ski Trip to Norway. There were suitcases of all shapes, sizes and colours. We eagerly waved goodbye to BCS and to the remainder of Mammy's who stayed to wave us off. Everyone was so excited! We landed in Oslo at 10pm Norway time (as they're one hour ahead) and were greeted by what you could only describe as 'fairytale snow'.

A day for us in Norway consisted of an early breakfast around 7.30 – 8.00am, a twenty-minute bus journey to the slopes and we were changed and outside for ski lessons at 10am. We were split into various groups, each with an instructor, with whom we put our entire trust for the week. By 4pm, generally, we were ready to go back to the hotel. As we found out that week, skiing is a very tiring sport!

During our stay in Birkebeineren Hotel, we enjoyed the odd sauna, developed our skiing skills (after many a tumble), went to an ice-hockey game, relaxed while swimming, shopped 'til we dropped' and enjoyed some 'chill-out' evenings in the hotel itself.

Fair play to the teachers for their good spirit, participation and encouragement throughout the week. Thanks to the parents and also a big thank-you to Mr. Pratt for bringing us on this unforgettable school trip.

Gráinne Glavey

Green Committee

Back in March, Spring was well and truly in the air, the days were getting longer, buds began to appear on the trees and a group of fourth year students decided that action was needed to improve recycling and create awareness about environmental issues in Ballyhaunis Community School. After the 'Green Committee' was formed, the main aim of the group was to get the system of recycling in the school back on track.

In April, a very informative talk was given to the 'Green Committee' by Mary Forde, Environmental Officer with Mayo County Council. Mary outlined to us the many different ways in which we can reduce, re-use and recycle our waste. She also advised us on the many different ways we can improve recycling in our school and the goals we should be aiming for in the future. Also during the month of April, we spoke to the different classes in the school to inform them of what they can do individually with their waste to play a part in the recycling system in the school.

In May, we took a very interesting and informative day trip to Derranumera Recycling Plant outside Newport. There we got a first hand view of recycling taking place and were spoken to on the necessity of recycling in today's modern Ireland. Future Plans for the group include achieving 'Green Flag' status for the school. This is an international, environmental, educational programme, management system and award scheme that acknowledges long term whole school action for the environment. Currently, 895 schools in Ireland have been awarded 'Green Flag' status.

In the pursuit of this, the help and assistance of every student and staff member in BCS is required to preserve our environment in a world where global warming is predominant and extremely topical.

Finally, we look forward to working with you all on making a positive difference on the environment in Ballyhaunis Community School. The whole team would like to say a big word of thanks to Mrs. Brogan (our very own Mother Nature) for the help in getting the team set up and for her assistance and enthusiasm in our efforts in preserving our environment for future generations.

Mrs. Brogan

Feachtas Tráth na gCeist

This year has been a very successful one for the quiz teams in the School. For the first time we entered two teams into the Feachtas Tráth na gCeist in Castlebar. At best we hoped for one team to get through after last years result. However, in what was a closely fought

Ballyhaunis Community School continued...



Ballyhaunis Community School, Championship winners and League runners-up, 2006/07.

Back, L-R: Gearoid Keane, Kieran Kiehy, Christopher McDonagh, Neil Murphy, Scott Matthews, Isaac Carroll, Niall Freeman, Caoileann Fitzmaurice, Conor Carney, Thomas Morley, John Finan, Cathal Lenaghan, Thomas Gallagher, Joseph Flynn, David McDonagh (trainer). Front, L-R: Hugh Rudden (trainer), Ciaran McDermott, Damien Kedian, Conor Freeley, Adrian Gavin, Brendan O'Gara, Stephen Comer, Ryan Worden.

competition, Ballyhaunis managed to come both first and second! This ensured that both teams went to the All-Ireland on the 10th of March in Dublin. The team members were Niall Hynes, Cliona Hensey, Sharon Nolan, Seán O'Rourke, Danny Regan, Ellen Hynes, Gerard Finn, Maura Naughton and Sarah Lynskey.

After an enjoyable day in Dublin we headed to the Aisling Hotel on the Quays to take part in the Final. After eight rounds one of our teams was level in first place with four other teams. We won it in the last round by one point after dropping just four questions out of sixty. Winning the All-Ireland was a complete shock to all concerned. The winning team members were Cliona Hensey, Niall Hynes, Sharon Nolan and Sean O'Rourke. Our other team finished in the top ten ahead of fifteen other teams.

We would like to thank Ms. Finn and Ms. Brogan for all the help and support that they gave us. A special thanks is extended to Mrs. Joyce who provided us with so much of her time and support throughout the campaign. We would never have done it without her.

Niall Hynes and Cliona Hensey

B.C.S. Banking

The school bank opened last October after six 4th years were chose, after an application/interview process, to fill the position of the school bank. The chosen students were: Amy Conroy, Manager; Padraic Kearney, Assistant Manager; Lydia Concannon, Sales and Marketing Executive; Ellen Hynes, Auditor; Lisa Tighe, Teller; Geraldine Egan, Teller.

The idea behind opening the bank came with the 'AIB Build A Bank Challenge': a competition designed to introduce all second level students to the world of banking. The school bank team were faced with dealing with the queries of customers as well as trying to run a bank branch within the confines of a school.

There were two stages in the competition. The first was also two fold. The school bank team had to write and submit two projects by April 2nd. The first of these projects was a business plan for the bank, stating the aims and the role of the bank within the school, target market and marketing initiatives that the bank team

used throughout the year. The second project that was to be submitted was a project report on one of three topics –

- + Student Banking Vision 2010
- + Ethnic Banking in Ireland
- + Emerging Technology in Student Banking

For our project we chose Ethnic Banking in Ireland, focusing particularly on the difficulties faced by ethnic minorities in accessing banking facilities and how this could be changed.

The second stage of the competition was to attend a regional final. On April 21st the school bank team accompanied by Ms Lally and Ms Waldron went to the Radisson Hotel in Sligo to give a presentation on the work of the school bank. As part of this we had also to create a presentation based on our activities during the year in the promotion of the bank. At our exhibit we were visited firstly by two adjudicators, with whom we had 10 minutes to present our bank, and secondly by the head adjudicator who we had 5 minutes to impress.

Throughout the year we ran a number of promotional activities. The first of these was a raffle. The draw took place during our official opening, which was preformed by Tommy Marren of Mid-West Radio, and we thank him for giving up his time to officiate our opening. Other services included an exchange service for all students and teachers who travelled on the school tour to Norway. The next promotion was a 'Love Hunt' organised to coincide with St. Valentine's Day. The 14 heart finders all get the opportunity to hit the piñata before the end of term. Our year long promotion is a draw which will take place at the end of the year, for all those who used the bank during the year. This draw is for a mobile phone.

For all our promotions we won one of the prizes at our final. The prize we won was for Best Customer Sustainment. For this each member of the school bank team won a mobile phone. The school also received a digital camcorder and a TV/DVD combo.

On behalf of the school bank team I would like to thank Ms Lally and Ms Waldron for all their help.

Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre

The Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre was started in 2004 and is based in the Friary House at St. Mary's Abbey. The Family Resource Centre is focused on providing practical support, information and opportunities to all families and people in our community and works with other organisations and state agencies to improve the quality and range of services available in the Ballyhaunis Area.

2007 has seen the Family Resource Centre continue its growth as a community organisation, improving the range of activities and opportunities provided from the Friary House at St. Mary's Abbey, deepening contact with our different communities and families throughout the town, as well as increasing our staff and accessing new funding from state agencies and departments.

The Family Resource Centre were delighted to be of assistance to the Active Retirement Group during the year who now hold their regular Thursday evening meetings in the Friary House and continue to work with the group, for example providing computer and photography courses, to improve and increase the type of activities available in the town for our senior citizens.

A new counselling service was initiated during the year by Ms. Grace O'Malley on Thursday mornings at St. Mary's Abbey. The counselling service is for anyone who wants help, perhaps at a time of crisis or otherwise, who is unhappy with his or her present circumstances and hopes for change, or who wishes to make progress in personal development.

The Centre continues its work with asylum seekers and members of the International community in Ballyhaunis, improving contacts and working together to provide a mix of activities for children and families. The biggest development this year has been the establishment of a pre-school childcare service at the Old Convent, which employs three childcare workers and has enabled a second facility to be established here at St. Mary's Abbey which we hope will begin operation in early 2008 and which will enable us to employ two further childcare workers.

Support to our International communities has continued and during the previous 12 months the Centre has provided Computer courses, Parenting and Integration Courses, a weekly Swimming club along with social & cultural outings for children. The Family Resource Centre also provides help and assistance to individuals from these communities as well as encouraging them and their children to take part in other activities taking place in the town. We also noted with interest the results of the 2006 census which highlighted that almost 37% of people in Ballyhaunis had been born outside of Ireland, which includes the 300 people living in the Old Convent Accommodation Centre.

This work was added to during 2007 with the Department of Justice selecting Ballyhaunis as the location for the new National Refugee Orientation Centre - which will be the first arrival point for refugees whom the Irish Government invites to come to live in Ireland under the United Nations programme refugee scheme. The Family Resource Centre provides an extensive programme for the children of these families during their time here, helping them to make the transition to Irish life. The Minister for Integration - Conor Lenihan T.D. visited the Family Resource Centre in October to formally welcome the first of the two Burmese groups who have spent the first six weeks in Ireland living in



Pictured at the Computer Courses with the Active Retirement group at the Family Resource Centre. Front, L-R: Maura Fitzmaurice, Ann Madden, Mary Reilly, Bridie Webb, Brigid Hanley, Carmel Waldron. Back, L-R: Breege Kenny (Tutor), Mary Waldron.

Ballyhaunis before being permanently housed in Castlebar and Ballina.

The Centre has continued to support the Ballyhaunis Traveller Pre-School and Sonas Crèche in Tooraree, which provides an excellent and affordable service, complementing the work of the VEC St. Catherine's Traveller Training Centre. The three Family Resource Centre staff members at the Sonas Service also expanded the range of activities provided in 2007 with the provision of an Easter and Summer Children's camp that arranged a number of out of town visits for children during the year.

The Family Resource Centre's work with children and young people continued with the Children's Saturday Art Club running throughout the year, providing two art activity classes for 20 children in the Friary House on Saturday mornings which has proven extremely popular. An After School Service has also continued during 2007 two evenings per week in the Friary House.

With the assistance of the Department of An Taoiseach a Community Internet Service with 10 laptop computers and access to broadband internet was also established during the year open to the public on Monday evenings and during the weekday afternoons which has proven very popular with young people and those living and working in Ballyhaunis from other countries.

A great deal of the work of the Family Resource Centre depends on the participation of volunteers in both our management committee and in the activities themselves. The Centre once again benefited from the work placements organised by the St. Catherine's Traveller Training Centre.

The Resource Centre is an active member of the Community Council, Abbey Partnership and Abbey Pattern Committee, contributing to the work of these organisations and helping out wherever possible.

The current board of directors is composed of Mary Morrissey (Chairperson), Dolores Biesty, Manar Cherbatji, Christina Concannon, Seamus Grogan, Stephen Grogan, Marie Jordan, Stephen Nganga and Betty Regan. The staff are Stephen Grogan and Tracey McDermott in the Priory, along with Pauline Mallee-Hunt, Lisa Ganley and Mary Cleary in Sonas at Tooraree. Patricia Kelly, Barbara Plunkett and Liz Ward at the Old Convent, with Mona Herr, Aine Delaney, Helen Keily and Nicola Ryan working with the Burmese families on Clare Street.

Mayo Ladies Senior Football

Frank Browne, a native of Wexford, has lived in Ballyhaunis for many years and is the current Manager of the Mayo Ladies Football team. Here he shares with us his experiences in the last eventful year.

It's just after 5.20pm on Sunday, 23rd September, 2007. I am standing in stunned silence and disbelief in the middle of Croke Park. All around me are Mayo players in various stages of distress, while only yards away the Cork ladies are celebrating a historic three in a row. The familiar face of Jonathan Mullin from RTE Sport walks towards me and asks if I could do a small piece for the Six One News. Right now it's the very last thing I want to do. However, it's always easy to talk to the media on the really good days and now, just a few minutes after being beaten in the All Ireland Final, it just has to be done too, because... well that's sport. It was never supposed to end like this.

Although, that being said, it did not begin too well either. Two weeks after meeting the Mayo Ladies, as their new manager, for the first time we travelled to Mullahoran, Co. Cavan to play Armagh, a team who just a few months previously had been beaten themselves by Cork in the All Ireland decider. To say that we were beaten back to Longford on that afternoon at the end of January would be a total understatement, however over the first few weeks, and even in this defeat I had seen something that had given me heart amongst this group. I really believe that these athletes have that certain X-factor which separates the good players from the great ones and the ordinary teams from the champions.

Over the early weeks of 2007 we set about our task of becoming true champions. We worked hard and diligently putting in the long training hours and sacrifices that are required to excel at this level. Our next outing in the league saw us drawing with Laois and this was followed up with victories over Kerry, Waterford, Tyrone and a quarter final victory over Meath which set us up for a semi final with Cork in a game which was to prove to be one of the turning points in our season.

Cork, in recent years, had taken over Mayo's mantle as probably the best Ladies football team in the country, and had an unbeaten run of 32 games stretching over almost two and half years which saw them winning two consecutive All Irelands and National League Titles. In comparison, Mayo's fortunes had dipped considerably from the early years of the decade and going into this semi final Cork were almost unbackable favourites to progress. However, Mayo pulled out a top-drawer performance to beat Cork by two goals in a great game to set up a League Final derby encounter with Galway. In hindsight this was probably just the awakening that the Leesiders needed to kick-start their campaign.

All along we had planned to try and have two peaks in the year, a very difficult task as anybody involved in Human Performance will testify. Our first peak was fast approaching and was timed to coincide with the start of our championship campaign and League Final. The fixtures fell in a very peculiar manner for us in late April and early May as we were scheduled to play Galway on following weekends: firstly, in the opening round of the Connacht Championship, then the League decider.

In the opening game of this series we were comprehensively beaten by Galway in Tuam and, for a few days, it appeared that our season had been completely derailed. However, true to the spirit of the team we got back to training and hard work, rebuilt our confidence and self belief and completely overturned Galway the following week securing our first piece of silverware for the season in the shape of the Suzuki National Football League Division One title.

In a strange way our next seasonal turning point came the following weekend in our second round Connacht clash with Sligo in Tourlestrane. With ten minutes gone in the second half we found ourselves eight points behind and facing the possibility of being eliminated from the competition. However, we dug deep and came back to win out comfortably in the end, once again showing the reservoirs of character which this group possesses.

The Connacht Final of 2007 will probably go down as one of the greatest ever Ladies football games. For Mayo it was a journey back to the spiritual home of Gaelic football in Galway - Tuam Stadium - the scene of some of the team's most demoralising and gut-wrenching defeats over the previous few years. For Galway it was a chance to avenge their League final hammering and reconstruct their season. The scene was truly set for a classic, and a classic it turned out to be.

Mayo had the brighter opening few minutes but then Galway took command of proceedings and, half way through the second half, Mike Finnerty of Mid-West radio was probably wondering how he was going to fill the last fifteen minutes of the live radio broadcast as Mayo appeared dead and buried, nine points behind and one player in the sin bin. However, the work we had done both physically and psychologically was to pay off in the final ten minutes as we dragged ourselves back into the game, simply refusing to be beaten. By the end of normal time the sides were level and in a thrilling two periods of extra time Mayo ran out winners by a single point.

They say that in many ways sport mirrors life and vice versa, and in life the highs are only so high because the lows are so low. When we look back at this game in the months and years ahead we will look upon it as one of our highs.

With the new structures in Ladies Gaelic football this year, the All Ireland series is based on a Champions League type format with four groups of four teams and the top two teams qualifying for the quarter finals. This meant a significantly greater number of games, and rest and recovery between games became crucial to teams' chances of success. A very important part of our preparations then revolved around pool recovery sessions, correct re-hydration and rehab from injury etc. We coasted reasonably easily through our group stages with comfortable wins over Waterford, Kerry and Dublin.

These victories meant we qualified for a quarter final game against one of the superpowers of the game in the 90's - Monaghan. The game will be more remembered for the atrocious weather conditions in which it was played than the result. An abiding memory of the game for me will be Yvonne Byrne diving across her goal to make a save, and then almost needing sub aqua equipment to get out of the water in the goal. In the end we won by 5 points and went on to defeat Tyrone in the semi final and set up our date with destiny in September. The rest, as they say, is history.

A journalist recently wrote that if you ever meet a genie and are granted three wishes, one of them should be to be on the team bus on the way to an All Ireland Final in Croke Park. I suppose in years to come we will look back and say that yes, it was a great experience: an experience which many children and, indeed, adults play out all over the country every day of the year. But for us, personally, the pain of defeat is still too raw to really appreciate what we have done, and like all sportspeople we are now putting in train our plans to go one step further, win the All Ireland and truly get to 'walk like champions'.

Finally, hopefully the next time I get to speak to Jonathan we will be glowing in the warmth of victory rather than the dark shadow of defeat. Until next year..... Maigh Eo Abu.

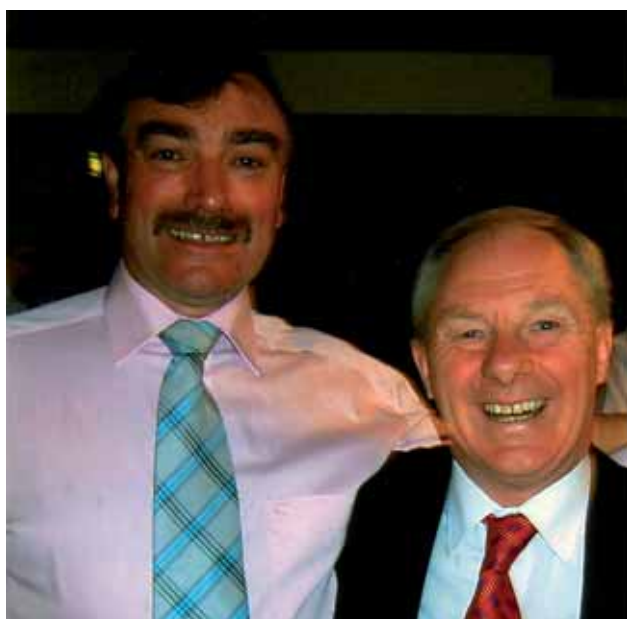
Friends of the Friary - Update



Pat Byrne at his shop in Knox Street a few days before the All-Ireland Final in which his daughter Yvonne played in goal for Mayo against Cork.



Oliver Hannon and Kanjana Komnapinit, taken in Bangkok, Thailand.



Michael Waldron (Ballindrehid) with Michael Ring, T.D.

Friends of the Friary came together in Summer 2006 to voice concerns over proposed changes to the Friary Church. Comprised of people from across the local community, Friends of the Friary felt that plans to introduce tiered retractable seating to the church, and its given over to use as a training/performance/display centre without due regard to its sacred nature as a consecrated place and resting place for the dead was unacceptable.

In last year's Annagh we reported that members of Friends of the Friary met with representatives of the Abbey Partnership – the body charged with the care of the Friary complex including the church and cemetery – and that it was evident that the religious/sacred element of the church was foremost in future plans for the church.

A petition was collected through November and December 2006 on the following points: (1) That the Friary church and its contents will be preserved in its present state; (2) That the sacred nature of the Friary church and graveyard, as consecrated ground, will be respected and valued at all times; (3) That Mass and other religious ceremonies will be celebrated in the Friary church on a regular basis, with the full co-operation of parish and diocese.

The response to the petition was overwhelming, and many expressions of hope and encouragement were received while the petition was being collected. It demonstrated, in no uncertain terms, the strong feelings of affection towards the Friary Church, and a widespread desire to ensure its preservation and appropriate use into the future. The petition collected a total of 2,724 signatures from across the broad spectrum of the community, and Friends of the Friary continue to receive support through everyday interaction with people, and from letters and emails.

In January of this year (2007) Donal Moran and Paul Waldron attended a meeting of the full Abbey Partnership at which we submitted our concerns and proposals, along with the petition. Following a lengthy discussion the Abbey Partnership agreed to respond to our submissions in writing. On three occasions over the next three months we were assured that a response in writing was being prepared. Eleven months (December 2007) have now elapsed since that meeting, and we are still waiting. At that time also an invitation was issued to the Chairman and Vice-chairperson of the Abbey Partnership to attend a meeting with Friends of the Friary. Having agreed in principal to such a meeting we were later informed that they would not attend any such meeting.

Earlier this summer Friends of the Friary made a submission for the Local Area Plan being prepared by Mayo County Council, detailing the concerns addressed in the petition so that the preservation of the Friary as a church would be enshrined in any town or county development plans into the future.

Friends of the Friary wish to state that our concerns relate specifically to the Friary church and graveyard, and we acknowledge the good work that has taken place in other parts of the Friary complex.

Thank you

Friends of the Friary would like to acknowledge the huge amount of support it received with the petition last year (2006). A sincere 'Thank You' to all those involved in collecting the petition: those who signed it on paper and on-line; those who went out and collected signatures in their own areas; and those business people in Ballyhaunis, Knock, Aghamore, Tooreen, Gorthaganny, Ballinlough, Granlahan, Cloonfad, Tulrahan, Brickens and Bekan, who assisted in the collecting of signatures. Your involvement demonstrated the strength of feeling held by not only Ballyhaunis people, but by many from surrounding parishes who have had strong links with the Friary church over the centuries.

An Interesting Life

“What an interesting life you’ve had”, someone said to me the other day. And I suppose I have. It all started in February 1940; the Second World War was just five months old and my dad was already in the Royal Army Medical Corps, and posted to Burma and India. I didn’t meet him till I was nearly six years old. Mysterious parcels arrived from time to time during the War, from someone my mother called “daddy”. When he was demobbed in December 1945 we went to the local train station to meet him – by taxi! Something unheard of in those days. Incredibly, my wife-to-be’s dad, mum and herself (aged 2) travelled home from India on the same ship and same sailing! Naturally, it was years later that this came to light.

My first adventure with music was at the age of four when, visiting an aunt and uncle, I found a piano and amazed them all by picking out the right notes for various well-known melodies of the day. The problem was affording a piano and the lessons that went with it. Financial restraints during wartime were particularly difficult.

Africa

I lived a fairly normal life through until the age of twelve, when my parents had decided that we would emigrate to Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia). We were to sail from Tilbury Docks just nine days after my twelfth birthday and, as a birthday treat, they wanted to take me to London, as I’d never seen the Tower of London, Madame Tussaud’s etc. But, as we travelled down on the Underground from High Barnet on the Northern Line, the stark newspaper billboards read: “The King is dead”; King George VI had died the previous evening, so all these attractions were closed! On the 14th February 1952 we set sail on the Union Castle “Warwick Castle” for Cape Town, en route to Ndola in Northern Rhodesia.

Schools, and particularly music tuition, proved problematic in the colonies in those days, and my parents decided to send me to South Africa for my schooling. And, if I was to travel that far, then why not somewhere by the sea? The decision was taken to send me to De La Salle College in East London on the east coast of South Africa. By that time, we had moved to Livingstone, just seven miles north of the Victoria Falls on the Zambezi, which forms the border with Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). Twice a year, I caught the train from Livingstone on a Saturday evening, arriving in East London the following Tuesday afternoon. Some journey, but great fun, and the standards of rail travel in those days was superb, with bedding and meals of the highest quality. Music-wise, my love for the piano, and particularly church organ, prompted me to teach myself, which has resulted in my somewhat unconventional approach to musical performance but, hopefully, what comes out of the “sausage machine” is what counts.

My parents, although being Anglican, had great faith in a Catholic education. Some years later I felt drawn to Roman Catholicism and was received into the Church on the 8th September 1956. The following Holy Saturday both my parents were themselves received into the Catholic Church by Father Albert Hayes OFM Cap., the Parish Priest of Livingstone, who only died here in Ireland a couple of years back.

Full of fervour, I felt called to the priesthood, but spent only one year - 1958 - in St. John Vianney Seminary in Pretoria, South Africa. Now in the 21st Century, I regret that I didn’t follow my earlier instincts to become ordained in the Anglican Church, which would have enabled me to offer myself, complete with family, to Cardinal Basil Hume for Roman Catholic ordination.

Change

After a short time working for the Standard Bank of South Africa in Livingstone, I was invited to apply for the position of Assistant Bandmaster to the Northern Rhodesia Police. I had to submit to the



John and Marianne Aldridge.

normal five months of police training, and spent some time in the Traffic Corps. I was stationed at Lilayi, some few miles south of Lusaka, and in early 1962 visited my parents in Livingstone, where the Police Band were to parade and play concert music at the Livingstone Agricultural Show, and I conducted them. In those days, my father played the double bass in a trio at the Victoria Falls Hotel, and my mother and I enjoyed an evening listening to them. Suddenly she said “Oh look, there’s Marianne – we’ve just been in a play together”. She introduced us, and I asked Marianne for a dance, and also suggested that we might go out for dinner on my next visit to Livingstone. I returned to Lilayi and, a short time later, made a decision to leave the police, and moved to Salisbury (now Harare), where I worked for Ottoman Bank.

Some time later, I remembered my invitation to Marianne, and wrote to her apologising for not being in touch. Her letter arrived by return; she was to visit her sister and brother-in-law a few weeks later. She thought I might like to go and meet them in the meantime, so that I would have some friends there in this new place. I was staggered to find that Marianne’s sister Clare (now a very well-known and respected actress in South Africa) was married to a top broadcaster on the Federal Broadcasting Corporation, Ken Marshall, and I approached our first meeting with trepidation!

When Marianne arrived for a weekend visit, we spent Saturday evening at a dinner dance in the Highlands Park Hotel (where we were to hold our wedding reception some six months later), and on the Sunday night we attended a movie at the Catholic Centre. And in the early hours of Monday morning, I asked her to marry me and she said yes!! Soon afterwards she moved down to Salisbury, and we married on the 15th April 1963.

An Interesting Life continued...

Meantime, Ken Marshall, the broadcaster, was producing "Guys and Dolls", and I was asked to take on the position of Chorus Master for the show. Marianne's brother, Rory, was Manager of a life assurance company in the city of Bulawayo, in the west of the country, and I went to work with him. We moved to Bulawayo later in 1963. I worked in insurance right up until the time we finally left Rhodesia, complete with three children – Peter, Richard and Michelle in 1974.

Back to 1965, when Ian Smith, Prime Minister of Rhodesia, declared a Unilateral Declaration of Independence from Britain on November 11th. Because of my earlier police training, I had joined the Southern Rhodesia Police Reserve, because a state of emergency was declared in the country simultaneous with the Declaration of Independence. I was called for duty at Hillside Police Station, from 4.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon every day, then going into work for the remainder of each day.

A Rhodesia Television producer, Brian Asch by name, came in one day to pay his ten bob fine for parking in an expired meter. He asked me if I would be interested in auditioning as a television presenter, and I spent eight years on radio and television, in addition to running my own insurance brokerage. Marianne, who has a great talent for script-writing and computer graphics, worked closely with me when we decided to run the business as an insurance broker and broadcasting production house.

Ireland

But Rhodesia was growing unstable and the kids were growing older and, when Peter was nine, Richard was seven and Michelle was five, after much thought and deliberation, we decided to settle in Ireland – a country which, naively, we had in the nicest possible way seen as green grass, potatoes, priests and nuns! We decided that I was to fly over initially, leaving the family with my parents who were now in Lusaka.

The day before my arrival in Dublin was the day of the awful Friday bombings in Dublin and Monaghan. I was convinced that every parked car I passed on Stephen's Green would suddenly explode.

However, we settled well and in 1975 moved to Athlone, where I was an insurance inspector, moving on to Galway in 1977, where I was branch manager. Here our fourth child, Susan, was born in Tuam. In 1980 I was moved to Dublin, first as branch manager and then as marketing manager for Ireland.

And then came the crunch – on the 27th March 1984 I suffered a heart attack and actually died for 90 seconds. Luckily, there was very little damage to the heart muscle; it was the stress that marketing causes, so I left the insurance company I worked for and ran my own insurance brokerage in Greystones, Co. Wicklow where we had been living for the past few years. Throughout my life, I had acted as organist and sometimes choirmaster in the various places we had lived, but Greystones was unique for me insofar as I played in both the Holy Rosary Catholic Church and St. Patrick's Church of Ireland. I was also Musical Director of the Greystones Musical Society for some time (in previous years I held the same position in the Athlone Musical Society and the Patrician Musical Society in Galway).

However, the insurance business was becoming more difficult, particularly as the larger banks had formed their own life assurance companies, and were obviously in a position to often have first call on their clients' business across the board. I decided that I needed to get away somewhere quiet and have a think about my work and in which direction I should go. So Marianne suggested that I pay a visit to Medjugorje, which I did in March 1991. This would have to be a separate, yet fascinating story; two miraculous occurrences led to an "in the mind" instruction – "Go, sell what you have and give yourselves to the poor"; I wondered whether that meant musically or

some other way. I came home and sat for nearly two hours in Dublin Airport with Marianne, telling her all that had happened; and it was really her faith in following the instruction that led us to Knock in August 1991.

Knock

With no house, an old car and about €5,000, I started to teach piano and singing. Marianne landed a FÁS job at the Mount St. Michael Convent in Claremorris, where Susan started as a 1st year student, and we lived in a rented house in Knock. Knock Shrine were aware of my interest in church music, but somebody already held the position of organist, and I made sure that my presence would in no way undermine the position of the present incumbent. Unbelievably, on the very anniversary of my experience in Medjugorje, I was offered the position of Resident Organist and Director of Sacred Music at the Shrine in Knock, which position I have held since March 1992. In 1994, Pat Salmon of Western Care Association, in Ballina, asked Marianne (who's the best secretary I ever met!) to come and work for him for one month. In fact, she was to remain with Western Care at Head Office in Castlebar for nearly fourteen years! She retired in early October 2007.

In 1996 we moved from Knock to Larganboy, Ballyhaunis, where we have since lived and I had the privilege of directing music for the Ballyhaunis Musical Society until its sad demise some years ago. In September 2007, Una Nolan was appointed Assistant Director of Music in Knock and I feel sure that, together, we will continue to uphold the standard of music in the Shrine, for the edification of all our pilgrims.

Yes – it has been an interesting life, and now approaching my 68th birthday, I'm not sure how much more there will be to come – but please don't stop yet!

John Aldridge



Three generations of the Tarmey of Pattenspark, with their neighbour Mike Tarmey, Holywell, taken in the late 1940s. L-R: Stephen Tarmey, Frank Tarmey, Mike Tarmey. Front: Stephen Tarmey Jr.

Rev. Professor Enda McDonagh

A most distinguished and widely respected Roman Catholic Theologian



Fr. Enda McDonagh

Fr. Enda McDonagh, a native of Began, made history this summer when he became the first Catholic priest to be appointed an Ecumenical Canon of the Chapter of St. Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral in Dublin. What makes this appointment significant is that it is the first time since the Reformation, that a Roman Catholic priest has taken a place in this Chapter.

Enda McDonagh was born in Began in 1930 and educated at Began national school from 1935-43, where his father and mother were principal teachers. From there to St. Jarlath's College, Tuam from 1943-8 and there

to St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, where he was ordained for the archdiocese of Tuam in 1955. He continued his studies at Maynooth, receiving a Doctorate in divinity in 1957. He then went on to the Angelicum University Rome, where he received a Licence in Philosophy in 1958, and from there to the Ludwig-Maximilians University in Munich, where he was awarded a Doctorate in Canon Law in 1960.

In 1958, Fr. McDonagh, at 28 years of age was appointed Professor of Moral Theology in Maynooth (a post he held for 36 years until he retired from teaching in 1995). He was subsequently appointed Director of Postgraduate Studies and Dean of the Faculty of Theology at Maynooth and was Visiting Professor, Research Fellow and External Examiner at universities in Britain, the US, Canada and South Africa including the University of Cambridge, England in 1978, and Huisking Professor of Theology at Notre Dame University in the US from 1979-81. He is also a former member of the Senate of the National University of Ireland from 1972 – 95 and served on the Higher Education Authority from 1985-90, he was also chancellor of University College Cork. He served two terms as president of the Irish Federation of University Teachers and was also President of the National Conference of Priests in Ireland as well as being the official chaplain at Áras an Uachtaráin during the presidency of Mary Robinson.

Fr. McDonagh has been one of our foremost moral theologians for half a century now and has a considerable international reputation. Above is a list of his very considerable academic achievements, but what about the man. According to Fr. Kevin Hegarty, writing in his 'Second Reading' Column in the 'Mayo News' of July last, "Enda is a provocative thinker, an engaging conversationalist and a generous host. He has a delightful sense of humour, often tinged with a self-deprecating irony. He is the soul of courtesy. ... Among the major concerns of Fr. McDonagh's work are the promotion of ecumenical dialogue between the different religious and political traditions in Ireland, the horror or war in the modern world, the poverty of the third world. ... He also has explored the fruitful connections between art and literature and theology".

Donation to GMIT, Castlebar

Fr. McDonagh has donated his personal Library and papers to the GMIT Castlebar Campus. Bernard O'Hara, registrar of GMIT said it is "one of the best theological libraries in Ireland. It is an astonishing collection of 15,000 books reflecting his interdisciplinary interests in Philosophy, ethics, politics, ecology, art, poetry and drama ... the library reflects the extent of his global

interests from the problems of Latin America, the political challenges of Zimbabwe, HIV/AIDS in Africa and his concern for the marginalised worldwide. GMIT is delighted at this donation in Fr. McDonagh's native county". The Library will be available to both students and the general public when it opens.

Published Works

Fr. McDonagh is also the author of 15 books and his body of acclaimed works are as follows: Roman Catholics and Unity (1962), The Meaning of Christian Marriage (1963), Moral Theology Renewed (1965), Invitation and Response (1972), Gift and Call (1975), Doing the Truth (1977), Social Ethics and the Christian (1979), The Demands of Simple Justice (1980), Church and Politics: From Theology to a Case History of Zimbabwe, The Making of Disciples, Between Chaos and New Creation (1986), The Gracing of Society (1989), The Small Hours of Unbelief (1989), Faith and the Hungry Grass: A Mayo Book of Theology (ed.) (1990), Salvation of Survival: A Second Book of Mayo theology (ed.) (1993), Vulnerable to the Holy: In Faith, Morality and Art (2005), Immersed in Mystery: En Route to Theology (2007).

Conference

A one day conference entitled "Of Beauty, Love and Truth" was held on 13th October last at the McWilliam Park Hotel Claremorris in honour of Fr. McDonagh. It was organised by the GMIT in association with The Western Theological Institute to highlight his generous donation to the college. Among the speakers was former Taoiseach Dr. Garret Fitzgerald; St. Stanislaus Kennedy, founder of Focus Ireland and writer and broadcaster Fr. Brendan Hoban.

Sinead Freyne



Football Legends

Enda Murphy, Sean Flanagan and Paddy Prendergast taken outside Murphy Arms, Bridge St., 1980s.

Poems by Fr. Kieran Burke

Saints Island – Gougane Barra

In lovely Gougane Barra
There's a little island green,
A lake of sparkling waters round about.
Lofty hills lie o're its head,
Long ago, a saint was led
To that place to live alone with God, no doubt.

Now, he chose a magic isle
And 'twas surely by God's grace
That Finbarr came across it one fine day.
'Tis a place where two worlds meet,
Holy ground's beneath your feet,
And you sense a Presence that won't go away.

As the golden sun declines
O're the hills just to the west
Its rays cast on that isle a wondrous light.
And when gentle breezes blow
On the lake waters below
You'll be entranced by such a lovely sight.

The Beautiful Wild Flowers

O what a sight it is to see the trees with leafy robes
Or feel a gentle breeze that white clouds
O'er a bright sun blows
While, here and there may fall a shower
On grass or golden corn or bower
Yet is there ought than can compare
To just one beautiful wild flower?

What would this world be like at all
If some folk had their way?
A concrete jungle, with no trees to see
The live long day?
For Nature's grandeur they don't care,
Or birdsong sweet, in morning hours,
And, with proud heads held high they miss
The beautiful wild flowers.

A lady, near her wedding day
Was asked what flowers she'd like
To make a bridal bouquet fair
So it would look just right
Some roses and some lillies could
Look great for many hours,
But no, that lady would have naught
Save beautiful wild flowers!

There are few sights that glad the heart
All friends of Nature know,
Where hand of God from out the sky
Touches this earth below,
'Tis there are seen amidst the green,
Where bird and insect cower,
Those lovely jewels of the land,
The beautiful wild flowers

When Heaven Came to Knock

It was an autumn eve in Ireland West
A mist hung o'er the land
And people, long impoverished, moved about
Within a village, sure that year was bad for tillage
Yet, some of these would soon no doubt
Be heaven's guests.

A faith most deep sustained these folk
Through thick and thin
They owned but little of those things
That pass away.
They bore Christ's gentle yoke
God was their rock, their fortress night and day.

A woman chanced to pass
The gable of the village chapel then,
And, looking up, saw what she thought were statues
Which the Parish Priest had bought.
But when these figures moved, she ran
And soon a group assembled who by grace were sought.

When young and old were gathered near
The gable, 'twas lit up
As by a light most strange from out the sky.
And Mary she was seen with crown most bright
St. Joseph and St. John appeared nearby
A vision wrapped in silence, what a sight!

The angels, they were present
And the Lamb of God upon an altar stood
Oh, what a sight from heaven above,
Much rain did fall
But not upon that gable wall
While many on their knees unto great heaven's Queen did call.

The Virgin Mother of the King of kings
Came down to Knock that autumn eve
And not a word did speak.
Yet, many know she came
To soothe hearts that were broken
God's healing gifts her presence does betoken.



Bill Lohan, Curries, bringing home the turf the traditional way.

Scoil Iosa

Scoil Iosa Primary School extends Christmas Greetings to Annagh readers and everyone connected with the school in the past and the present. There are 270 children attending the school.

Retirement

In June Caitlín Jennings retired after a lifetime of service in the teaching profession. She taught in city and rural schools before coming to Ballyhaunis to teach in St. Joseph's Convent Primary School and then in Scoil Iosa. Tributes were paid to her by the pupils, Parents' Association, Board of Management and Teachers who all wished her a very Happy Retirement.

Board of Management 2003-2007

John Griffin (Chairman), Fr. Kieran Burke (Patrons' Nominee), Seamus Caulfield (Treasurer), Olive Lyons (Elected Parent), Jim London (Principal), Jimmy Duggan (Elected Teacher), Cathy Carroll (Community Representative), Ann Lyons (Community Representative). At the time of going to print the Board of Management for 2007-2011 has yet to be elected.

Parents' Association 2006-2007

Eamon Healy (Chairperson), Frank Browne (Secretary & PRO), Agatha Higgins (Treasurer), Cathal Carroll (Vice-chairperson), Rita Cunnane (Asst. secretary). Board of Management representatives: Seamus Caulfield, Olive Lyons. Committee: Stacia Carney, Orla Moran, Bernadette Lyons. We wish the new committee every success for the coming school year.

Parents' Association 2007-2008

Eamon Healy, Frank Browne, Cathal Carroll, John Durkan, Pat Ryan, Laura Webb, Ann Lyons, Niamh Henry, Tommy Caulfield, Patricia Ní Suilleabháin, Orla Moran, Martin Walsh. Thanks to the outgoing members for all they did for the School in the past year.

Staff 2007/2008

Jim London, Principal, Sally Fahey, Deputy Principal, Augustine Kearns, Assistant Principal, Betty Regan, Kathleen Lyons, Jimmy Duggan, Sella McGrath, Anne Durkan, Ita Fahy, Sr. Geraldine Farrell, Aisling Toal, Margaret Flaherty, Marie Byrne, Sheena Flanagan, Kevin Henry, June Duffy, Mary Fleming. Special needs assistants: Bridgid Lynskey, Marina Coyne, Kay Healy. School Secretaries: Carmel Cassidy, Mary Dillon. School Caretaker: John Hurley. French Teacher: Seamus Caulfield.

SACRAMENTS

First Confessions

The following students from Second Class made their First Confession on Monday, 10th March, and received their First Holy Communion on Saturday, 12th May, in St Patrick's Church Ballyhaunis: Jessica Carroll, Jennifer Cleary, Darren Coyne, Lauren Gallagher, Katie Haugh, Gary Higgins, Diarmuid Keane, Jessica Kilbane, Caoimhe Lilly, Gemma Lilly, Emma Lyons, Michelle Lyons, Michael McDonagh, Ellen Maughan, Aoife Mulrennan, Eamon Phillips, Jordan Squire.

Confirmation

The following pupils in Scoil Iosa Primary School Ballyhaunis were confirmed on Saturday, May 5th in St Patrick's Church Ballyhaunis by Archbishop Michael Neary.

Sixth Class: Ultan Griffin, Margaret Cleary, Megan Carroll, Charlene Maughan, Wenesa Staszczuk, Edward Cleary, Michael Somorin, Eadaoin Lyons, Jarlath Carney, Conor Nolan, Kim Creanee, Darren Nolan, Lisa O'Connell, Phelim Kenny, Diarmuid Byrne, James Cribbin, Kieran Webb. Class Teacher: Jimmy Duggan. Wenesa Staszczuk. A first year pupil in Ballyhaunis Community School will also be confirmed on that day.

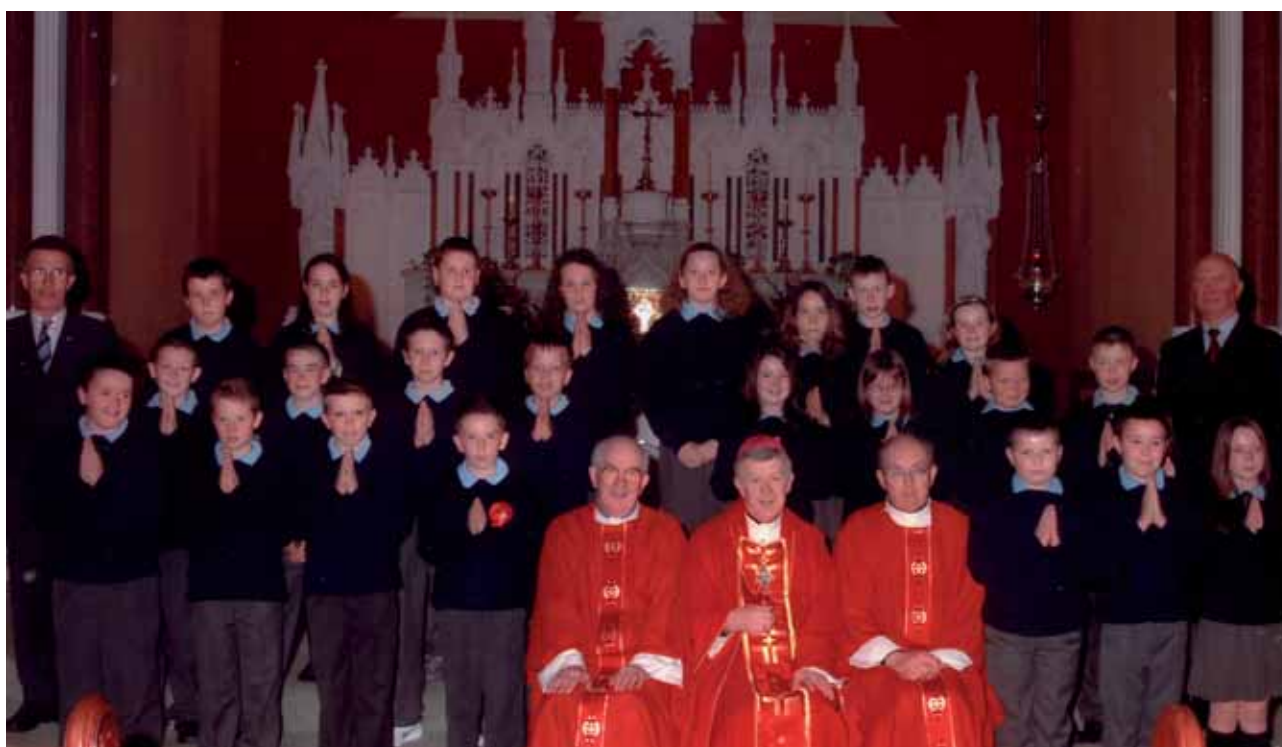


Scoil Iosa First Holy Communion St. Patrick's Church Ballyhaunis 2007

Back, L-R: Jim London (Principal), Canon Joseph Cooney P.P., Ita Fahy (Teacher), Fr. Kieran Burke C.C. 3rd Row, L-R: Ellen McDonagh, Jordan Squire, Aoife Mulrennan, Katie Haugh, Jennifer Cleary. 2nd Row, L-R: Gemma Lilly, Michelle Lyons, Jessica Kilbane, Caoimhe Lilly, Lauren Gallagher, Jessica Carroll, Emma Lyons. Front, L-R: Eamon Phillips, Michael McDonagh, Darren Coyne, Diarmuid Keane, Gary Higgins.

Glynn Photography, Castlereagh

Scoil Iosa continued...



Scoil Iosa Confirmation 5th Class St. Patrick's Church Ballyhaunis May 2007

Back, L-R: Jim Landon (Principal), Robert Morley, Aisling Tarpey, Andrew Henry, Patricia Daly, Tasha Coyne, Viktorija Konovalciuk, Jim Reidy, Claire Moran. Middle Row, L-R: Damien Callaghan, David Cleary, Genard Freeley, Shane Healy, Caoimhe Henry, Tessa Lyons, Martin McDonagh, Kevin Kilbride, Augustine Kearns (Class Teacher). Front, L-R: Jason McGoldrick, Morgan Lyons, Seán McDermott, Andrew Whelan-Manning, Canon Joseph Cooney P.P., Archbishop Michael Neary, Fr. Kieran Burke C.C., Michael Naughton, John Cribbin, Shannon Biesty.

Stratford Photography



Scoil Iosa Confirmation 6th Class St. Patrick's Church Ballyhaunis May 2007

Back, L-R: Jim Landon (Principal), Ultan Griffin, Margaret Cleary, Megan Carroll, Charlene Maughan, Wenesa Staszczuk, Edward Cleary, Michael Somorin. Middle row, L-R: Eadaoin Lyons, Jarlath Carney, Conor Nolan, Kim Creane, Darren Nolan, Jimmy Duggan (Class Teacher).

Front, L-R: Lisa O'Connell, Phelim Kenny, Diarmuid Byrne, James Cribbin, Kieran Webb, Canon Joseph Cooney P.P., Archbishop Michael Neary, Fr. Kieran Burke C.C. Stratford Photography

Scoil Íosa *continued...*

Fifth Class: Andrew Whelan-Manning, Aisling Tarpey, Jim Reidy, Michael Naughton, Robert Morley, Claire Moran, Mary Maughan, Jason McGoldrick, Martin McDonagh, Sean McDermott, Tessa Lyons, Morgan Lyons, Viktorija Konovalciuk, Kevin Kilbride, Caoimhe Henry, Andrew Henry, Shane Healy, Gerard Freeley, Patricia Daly, John Cribbin, Tasha Coyne, David Cleary, Damien Callaghan, Shannon Biesty. Class Teacher: Augustine Kearns.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

County Award Winners

Scoil Íosa won the 2006 'Best Kept School Award' in Mayo County Council's Cleaner Community Campaign Awards. The award was presented by Gerry Coyle, MCC Chairman Áras an Condae, to School Principal Jim Landon. The school was complemented on the condition of the school grounds, vegetable garden, recycling programme, wild flower garden and its tree planting programme. Great credit is due to the pupils and teachers of Scoil Íosa, caretaker John Hurley and Fr. Kieran Burke in achieving this award. In second place was Killocrun N.S., Crossmolina, and in third place was Glencastle N.S.

The following pupils travelled to Castlebar to represent the school following a draw which was held in each class: Megan Carroll, Jarlath Carney, Tasha Coyne, Kevin Kilbride, Lisa Higgins, Tommy Folliard, Katie Moran, Rory Nestor, James Reynolds, Hamza Azhar, Michelle Lyons and Milena Gawlowska.

Tidy Towns Art Competition

There were three prizes per class in the Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns Anti-Litter Competition. The winners were - Junior Infants: Rebecca Reynolds, Luke Walsh, Tristan Walsh. Senior Infants: Alannah Freyne, Anna Nagkierska, Weronilka Grabiasz. First Class: Zohaid Gulzar, Aoife Nolan, Laura O'Connell. Second Class: Gary Higgins, Aoife Mulrennan, Michelle Lyons. Third Class: Roisin Ní Suilleabháin, Lucy Moss, Jahingeer Javaid. Third Class: Mikey Hill,

Youbeel Haji, Daniel Spieyn. Fourth Class: Niamh Murray, Rory Nestor, Stephen Ryan. Fifth Class: Claire Moran, Michael Naughton, Shannon Biesty. Sixth Class: Haseeb Arshad, Hannan Iqbal, Lisa O'Connell. Special Class: Brigid Ward, Danielle Byrne, Fiona Creighton.

Music in the Classroom

One hundred and fifty pupils from Scoil Íosa, from second to sixth classes, and their teachers attended the Irish Times Music in the Classroom Concert in the Traveller's Friend Hotel, Castlebar.

Community Fire Safety Programme

Gerry O'Connell, a member of Ballyhaunis Fire Brigade, visited Scoil Íosa to speak to the third classes as part of the Primary School Programme entitled "Safety Team". The programme is designed to educate children in third class about the damages of fire so that they, in turn, will bring the message home and enhance the fire safety message in the home and the community. The children in the third classes visited Ballyhaunis Fire Station accompanied by their teachers Mrs. Ann Durkan and Ms. Stella McGrath.

Scoil Íosa Art Exhibition

On Thursday, 22nd March the School Art Exhibition was held in Scoil Íosa. The children produced some stunning art, which was professionally mounted, catalogued and framed on display stands. Everyone put a lot of work into the pictures and the display was simply stunning.

Kids Own Creative Writing

Pupils from sixth class took part in the "Kids Own Unheard Voices Series" which was held in Ballyhaunis Library. They wrote and illustrated items about Ballyhaunis which will be published in the spring of 2008 in a book which will feature items from 300 children from different parts of Ireland.



Mayo County Council Cleaner Community Campaign, Scoil Íosa, Ballyhaunis, winners of 'Best Kept School Category' 2006

Back, L-R: Rory Nestor, Milena Gawlowska, Megan Carroll, Ray Norton, (Director of Services, Mayo County Council), Sharon Cameron. Front, L-R: Michelle Lyons, Tommy Folliard, Katie Moran, Tasha Coyne, Jim Landon (Principal), Gerry Coyle (Chairperson Mayo County Council) Lisa Higgins, Jarlath Carney, Kevin Kilbride, James Reynolds, Hamza Azhar.

Scoil Íosa continued...

Parents' Association Events

Scoil Íosa Parents' Association organised a very successful Book Fair, a visit from Santa, and the annual Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Collection.

Road Safety

A Road Safety Cycling Training programme, sponsored by Mayo County Council, was given to sixth class over a period of six weeks.

THE SPORTING YEAR

Girls' Football

The Girls Football team competed in the Cumann na mBunscoil Mini Sevens Blitz in Claremorris, winning three out of four games, before eventually losing to Scoil Uileog de Burca in an exciting play-off. Team: Erika Webb, Megan Carroll, Niamh Murray, Lisa O Connell, Aisling Tarpey, Claire Moran, Caoimhe Henry, Shannon Biesty, Tasha Coyne. The team was coached by Kevin Henry.

Culaí Hurling Blitz

The hurlers took part in the Culaí Indoor Hurling Blitz held in Barnacarroil. Scoil Íosa, Knock N.S. and Ballinrobe N.S. ended level; at the end Ballinrobe won on a penalty shoot out.

Panel: Jarlath Carney, Darren Nolan, Hannan Iqbal, Shane Healy, Kevin Kilbride, Damien Callaghan, Stephen Nolan, Haseeb Arshad, James Cribbin, Conor Nolan. The organiser was Adrian Hession.

Cumann na mBunscoil Football

Scoil Íosa played two rounds of the Cumann na mBunscoil Division One Primary School Football Championship. In the first round, after a great game, Scoil Íosa was defeated 2-5 to 1-6 by St. Attracta's N.S., Ballaghaderreen. In the second round Scoil Íosa was narrowly defeated by St. Aidan's N.S., Kiltimagh by 3-9 to 1-12. Scoil Íosa Panel: Hannan Iqbal, John McCormack, Jim Reidy, James Lyons, Darren Nolan, Kevin Kilbride, James Cribbin, Shane Healy, Jarlath Carney, Morgan Lyons, Steven Nolan, Ryan Kilbane, Conor Nolan, Damien Callaghan, Steven Ryan, Andrew Henry, Philip Fitzmaurice, Rory Nestor, Ultan Griffin, Jamail Kezze, Jason McGoldrick, Robert Morley.

County Hurling Finalists

Scoil Íosa reached the County Division One Cumann na mBunscoil Final when they defeated Scoil Raifterí, Castlebar in an exciting semi final played in Ballyhaunis. The final was played on June 13th in

McHale Park, Castlebar, where Scoil Íosa was defeated by St. Bridget's N.S., Tooreen. Panel: Hannan Iqbal, Conor Nolan, Haseeb Arshad, James Cribbin (Captain) Lisa O'Connell, Jarlath Carney, Morgan Lyons, Ryan Kilbane, Darren Nolan, Kevin Kilbride, Shane Healy, Steven Ryan, Steven Nolan, James Lyons, Aisling Tarpey, Claire Moran, Damien Callaghan, Rory Nestor.

Girls' Football

Scoil Íosa Girls Football team competed in the Girls Cumann na mBunscoil Div. 1 Football Blitz which was held in Kiltimagh. Scoil Íosa lost to St. Attracta's N.S., Ballaghaderreen and St. Aidan's, Kiltimagh, but defeated Swinford N.S. Panel: Erika Webb, Shannon Biesty, Lisa O'Connell (Captain), Caoimhe Henry, Aisling Tarpey, Margaret Cleary, Megan Carroll, Niamh Murray, Orla Moran, Kim Creane, Tasha Coyne, Lisa Hunt.

Yvonne Byrne and Cora Staunton members of the Mayo National League Winning team 2007 visited Scoil Íosa with the Cup, accompanied by their trainer Frank Browne.

Gaelic Football U-10 and National School Leagues were played in school. The Julia Donohue and Vincent Caulfield Cups were played for. Tom Byrne coached in the school.

End of Year Ceremony

The sixth class pupils were presented with Graduation Certificates by John Griffin, Chairperson, on behalf of the Board of Management. They were: Farhan Ahmad, Bilal Almas, Haseeb Arshad, Donatas Bradauskas, Diarmuid Byrne, Jarlath Carney, Megan Carroll, Edward Cleary, Margaret Cleary, Kim Creane, James Cribbin, Ultan Griffin, Hannan Iqbal, Zeenat Javaid, Lisa Hunt, Phelim Kenny, Jamil Kezze, Mohammad Kezze, Eadaoin Lyons, Hira Mahmood, Charlene Maughan, John McCormack, Terry McDonagh, Conor Nolan, Darren Nolan, Lisa O'Connell, Azhair Tayyab, Kieran Webb, Shaahzab Yousaf, Sheba Younas.

A class photo and calendar was presented by Eamon Healy, Chairperson, on behalf of the Parents' Association. Then followed the end of year School Mass Celebrated by Fr. Kieran Burke. The Scoil Íosa choir conducted by Ita Fahey, sang during the Mass. So another successful school year was rounded off with a ceremony involving pupils, teachers, parents and family.



Pupils of Scoil Íosa who won prizes in the Under 12 section of the Kenny Naughton Writing Competition 2007.

Left to right: Kevin Kilbride (runner up, Short Story section), Caoimhe Henry (winner, Poetry Section) and Jason McGoldrick (runner up, Poetry Section).

N.F.A., Ballyhaunis Branch Annual Dinner Dance 1966



Back Left to Right:
Deirdre Finn, Bridie Egan
Front: Ann Regan, Monica Cribbin



Tom (Bob) and Hannah Biesty, Pattenspark.



Back L.to R.: Mr and Mrs Jim Hopkins, Miss M. Durr, Mrs. R. Healy. Front: Mr and Mrs Jim Forde.



Members of Ballyhaunis I.C.A. who did the catering. Back L. to R.: Mrs M. Phillips, Mrs T. Conway, Mrs C. Gilmore, Mrs L. Wilson, Mrs P. Byrne. Front L to R.: Mrs M. Connell, Mrs K. Freeley, Mrs I. Lynch, Mrs C. Dillon, Mrs M. Herr and Miss K. Byrne.

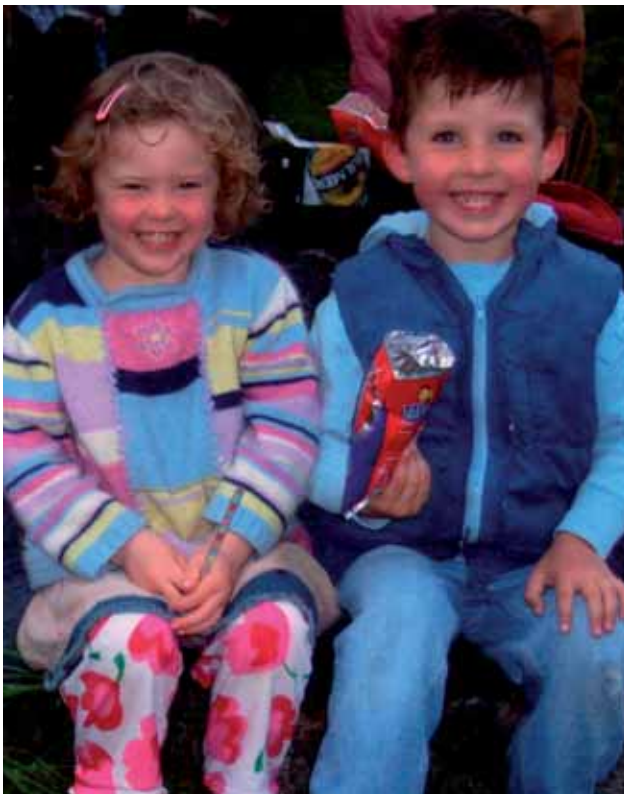
Back L. to R.: Mrs K. Madden,
Mrs K. O'Boyle. Front L. to R.:
Mrs D. Regan, Marie
Mulrennan, Mary Clarke and
Mrs B. Mulrennan.





Johnny Brennan's Bonfire, Gurteen, 2007

*Back, L-R: Mary Henry, Mary Mulrennan, Michael Henry, Marie Brennan, John Brennan, Al Madden, Martin Brennan, Michael Brennan.
Centre, L-R: Maud Henry, Tom Henry, John Brennan, Jack Madden. Front, L-R: Jessica Henry, Aoife Mulrennan.*



Jessica Henry and Jack Madden



Dave Judge, Tommy Lynch with bull 1990



Keeping an eye on the flock 1950s

L-R: Jim Kelly (Holywell), Mike Tarmey (Holywell), Tony Waldron (Holywell), Mary Fitzmaurice (Tavnaghmore), Jim Waldron (Holywell)



Some members of the Ballyhaunis GAA executive with the engineer and contractors. L-R: Hugh Rudden (President Mayo County Board), Noel Sloyan (contractor), Donal Moran (Chairman), Emmett Keane (President), Brendan Rudden (engineer), Raymond Sloyan (contractor), Bill Comer, Johnny Biesty, Padraic Regan.

Ballyhaunis GAA Club

2007 has been a very successful year for Ballyhaunis GAA Club. The Club fielded teams at all grades this year. Congratulations to all our players who participated in our games, to the team managers, selectors, referees, and parents who continue to be involved on a day to day basis helping our Club. This dedication, commitment and attention to detail is obvious and is a key part in the success of our Club on and off the Pitch.



Our current grounds, comprising of 13 acres, was purchased in 1968 for the sum of £1700.

The games were played originally in Clare Rd., and around the mid 1960's the club bought a field from Jim Mulkeen, Greenwood. Johnny Biesty and Matt Healy sowed the seed and the first game was played around 1972. Mick Keegan (Pattenspark) was the contractor and Luke Dunleavy (Kilmovee) built the dressing rooms that have served us to date.

New Development

Ballyhaunis GAA Club fielded 21 teams this year. We have developed our playing fields to a very high

Sod Turning

President of the Mayo County Board and Chairman of the Project Committee, Hugh Rudden



Rear view of proposed development which will be looking out onto the pitch.

standard and we have now commenced our new development which will be on a par with our playing facilities. This will give us an opportunity to hold more high profile games and cater for everybody. The need for new dressing rooms has been on the agenda for about 10 years. Our existing dressing rooms are no longer capable of catering for the number of players and games that we have at present. With our pitches now in prime condition, because of the large annual investment by the Club, it is only right that we should have up to date accommodation for all our teams' players and to allow for refreshments and training.

Schedule of Accommodation

The new development will consist of 4 large dressing rooms (36 sq. metres each), male and female toilets, disabled toilet, large showering facilities, referee's room, boiler room, store room. The first floor will contain a kitchen, store, male and female toilets, and a 130 sq. m. room which can be used as a meeting room, presentation room or weights area. There will be a plant room for services. It will have a dormer style roof with large viewing area onto adjacent playing field, and a smaller viewing area facing the car park.

The building designed with the main players' accommodation on the ground floor. There are also ample entrance lobby area corridors, sanitary facilities and access area to the playing pitches. There is a fire escape stairs from the first floor as well as the main stairway inside the main entrance door. The building is designed in accordance with all fire and building regulations. We have secured National Lottery funding of ?180,000 for the project.

performed the official turning of the sod. Donal Moran welcomed the large gathering and informed them that we are entering a new chapter in the history of the Club and he thanked Hugh and Brendan Rudden for the massive contribution they have made to our Club.

The opportunity to support us in this venture is open to all. Most people in this community will have had some contact with our club over the years and benefited from the involvement in some way or other. We look forward to your support for this much needed project and to bring our facilities up to date.

Contributions may be made to any of the Club officers or lodged directly to **Allied Irish Bank, Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo, Code 93-74-44, Account Number 30516006.**

The Mayo GAA Draw continues to be a major fund raising initiative for the Club and we thank everyone who has contributed, and look forward to your support in the future.

Our Club Lotto continues to be a main fundraising tool of the Club and this is now backed up by our online Lotto which can be accessed through the Ballyhaunis GAA website www.ballyhaunisgaa.com. From anywhere in the world you can show your support by going on line and playing our lotto. Annually, the Club needs to raise in the region of €100,000 to cover our costs.

This is an achievable project and if we get the support we need, from all our members, patrons and the community in general then we will be the better for it. We wish to thank all of our hardworking officers, committee members, players, team managers, referees, FAS workers, sponsors, supporters and everyone that has helped in any way to bring our Club to where it is today.

Ballyhaunis GAA Club *continued...*



Members, supporters and well-wishers at the Sod-turning for the new development at the Ballyhaunis GAA pitch. L-R: Padraic Regan, James Reidy, Chris Pratt, Jim Lunden, Micheal Walsh, Sen. John Carty, Martin Finan (hidden), Tommy Glynn, Donal Moran, Eugene Kilbride, Hugh Rudden (President Mayo County Board), Liam Folliard (hidden), Vincent Walsh, Noel Sloyan, Emmett Keane Jnr., Raymond Sloyan, Brian Murray, Teresa Keane, Emmett Keane, Padraic Kelly, Luke Fitzmaurice (Chairman Mayo Hurling Board), Bill Comer, Bernard Waldron, Jarlath Fahy (hidden), Brendan Rudden, Tommy Waldron, John Halpin, Kieran Byrne, John O'Mahony T.D., John Hopkins, Paddy McNicholas, Gearoid Ó Suilleabhain, John Prenty. Children in front: Jim Reidy, Cormac Reidy, Dearbhla Keane, Eimear Keane, Amy Keane, Ethan Keane, Daniel Murray, Shauna Murray, Aine Phillips, Aoife Mulrennan, Claire Moran, Katie Moran, Lisa Moran, Elaine Moran, Clodagh Byrne, Denise Moran, Kaitlyn Clarke, Roisín Ní Suilleabháin.

Under-8 Football

Training for U-8 was held on Friday evening from March until late October. The players really enjoyed their coaching and travelled to organised blitzes in Charlestown, Kiltimagh and Corofin Clubs. Teams captained by Gary Higgins and Sean Herr played out an exciting draw in the final of the 25th Mick O'Connell Cup. Team Management: Tommy Caulfield and Seamus Caulfield.

Under-10 Football

Over 30 boys played U-10 this year. 28 sessions were held and they were so well attended we were able to have almost full-scale matches and all the basic individual skills development such as soloing, hopping, catching, picking the ball properly, punch passing and kicking were included. As the year progressed the focus was on team skills - moving into space, breaking the ball, blocking kicks, looking to pass to a player in a better position, covering space, short free kicks, some shouldering fairly and breaking through a couple of players while in possession of the ball. In training games, players were limited to one or two plays of the ball, in an attempt to encourage teamwork rather than having individual players 'glorying' on their own.

We played local teams Michael Glaveys and Eire Óg and then we travelled to play Corofin of Galway in a friendly game, the first ever football encounter at any level between the two clubs. We entered two teams in the Claremorris blitz and we competed against teams from Garrymore, St. Gerard's, Eastern Gaels and Mayo Gaels. We played in the Kiltimagh and Michael Glavey's blitzes, and ended up in the final in the Balla blitz. We hosted our own club blitz on the August bank holiday weekend and this event went very well. Six teams took part and refreshments were provided by some of the ladies involved in the club - the hospitality generated much favourable comment from the bank holiday Monday supporters!

Our underage players were involved in a total of 30 matches during the season. We now know that we can more than hold our own in the areas of skill and effort. We look forward to meeting again next

year to improve and build on the skills and the spirit we have developed so far.

The club has a long tradition of participation in GAA activities and we want the children to recognise the need to uphold the virtues of sportsmanship and fair play that go with involvement in Gaelic football.

The trainers and mentors wish to thank the parents most sincerely for all their support and transport during the year. We need your help and encouragement and your involvement at training, even if you have little or no experience of Gaelic football.

U-8 and U-10 panel: Ahmad Abusafyan, Cathal Carney, Marina Carney, Sean Carrick, Saoirse Caulfield, Kaitlyn Clarke, Oisín Coffey, James Cribbin, Shane Cribbin, Roisín Fitzmaurice, Evan Fitzmaurice, Liam Foody, Fraz Ahmad, Matthew Grogan, Aleena Khalid, Cian Henry, Evan Henry, Oisín Henry, Gary Higgins, Joseph Kelly, Ryan Kilbane, Gemma Lilly, Michelle Lyons, Robert McCormack, Katie Moran, Aoife Mulrennan, Laura



Mick O'Connell Cup, Under-8 finalists. Back, L-R: Seamus Caulfield (trainer), Neil Carney, Dara Healy, Marina Carney, Conal Caulfield, Patrick Caulfield. Front, L-R: Conor Keane, Liam Herr, Dylan Gaughan, Gemma Foody.

Ballyhaunis GAA Club *continued...*

O'Connell, Cormac Reidy, James Reynolds, Conor Sloyan, Mahmood Hasson, Leanne Henry, Liam Herr, Daniel Hill, Mikey Hill, John Ross Madden, Roisin Ni Suilleabháin, Aoife Nolan, Brian O'Neill, Eamon Phillips. Team Managements: Jason Foody, Seamus Egan, Martin Fitzmaurice, Kevin Henry.

The Mick O'Connell Cup.

The Mick O'Connell Cup was held on Sunday 21st October 2007. Four teams of 11 players took part and were captained by Matthew Grogan, Leanne Henry, Mikey Hill and Shane Cribbin. Both semi-finals were slightly one-sided, with Matthew Grogan's team winning with a bit to spare over Sean Carrick's team in one match and, in the other, Leanne Henry's team eased past Shane Cribbin's team. The final was a very close-run affair, but two late goals clinched victory for Leanne Henry's team, after much excitement and heartbreak. The



Mick O'Connell Cup, Under-8 finalists. Back, L-R: Tommy Caulfield (trainer), Conor Sloyan, Evan Fitzmaurice, Ciaran Guilfoyle, Shauna Lyons, Roisin Lyons, Evan Henry. Front, L-R: Niamh Foody, Cormac Phillips, Gary Higgins, Jack Coyne, Barry Cribbin.

cup was presented to the winning captain by members of the O'Connell family. It was an historic moment as this was the first time in 27 years that the winning team was captained by a girl. All players were presented with medals and take-away food vouchers, bringing the curtain down on a busy but very rewarding and enjoyable season. Many thanks to the O'Connell Family who once again have been very generous in their sponsorship for this event.

Team Managements: Kevin Henry, Jason Foody, Seamus Egan, Martin Fitzmaurice. Barry Butler (R.I.P.).

Finally, on a sad note, this was the first season in approximately 25 years that Ballyhaunis GAA club were without the wisdom, experience, leadership and generosity of the late Barry Butler in under age football. This quiet and unassuming man had started training U-8 and U-10 teams on Sunday mornings and continued to do so, religiously, for many years. His sense of justice, love of community and especially children was evident as he included all, so that every child was given a chance. It was fitting that he had been honoured as Clubman of the Year in 2005 what was to be his final year of involvement with the club. We extend our most sincere sympathies to the Butler family. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dhilis.

Scoil Iosa football

The Junior Football league in Scoil Iosa reached a climax when the Tyrone team, captained by Stephen Ryan, defeated the Roscommon team captained by Stephen Nolan in a very exciting final played in the school. The final score was 6 points to 3.

This league commenced in October with 8 teams taking part – Galway (James Lyons), Armagh (Joseph Lyons), Roscommon

(Stephen Nolan), Cork (Laurence McDonagh), Tyrone (Stephen Ryan), Dublin (James Burke), Mayo (Mohammad Ahmad) and Sligo (Rory Nestor). After 7 rounds of league matches the 4 semi-finalists emerged. Roscommon defeated Dublin and Tyrone beat Galway in the semi-finals, thus qualifying for Friday's final. In total there were over 30 matches in the league. All matches were played during lunch-breaks and the competition generated great excitement. In the end there could only be one winner but great credit is due to the 80 players who took part and played the games in the right spirit.

The winning team was presented with the Vincent Caulfield Memorial Cup, sponsored by the Caulfield family and the two finalists were also presented with medals. Tyrone Team: Stephen Ryan (Capt.), Qasim Nazir, James Cribbin, Fraz Ahmad, Thomas McDonagh, Zaid Gulzar, Demi Greally, Bridget Ward, Lauren Gallagher and Kaitlyn Clarke. Roscommon Team: Stephen Nolan (Capt.), Niamh Murray, Robert McCormack, Daniel McCormack, John Cunnane, Mazhair Tayyab, Aoife Nolan and Jessica Carroll. Team Management: Kevin Henry and Seamus Caulfield.

The Julia Donohue Cup

The four teams and captains that competed in the Julia Donohue Cup in Scoil Iosa were: Mayo (James Cribben), Roscommon (Conor Nolan), Armagh (Jarlath Carney) and Kerry (Jamil Kezze). Two very competitive and closely contested semi-finals saw Armagh edge out Mayo while a gallant Roscommon lost out to an excellent team display from Kerry. Not even a heroic display of goalkeeping from Mohammad Kezze could keep out a rampant Kerry attack in the semi-final, while for Mayo the best efforts of players like John McCormack and his team-mates were almost enough to see them to victory only for the determination and skill of Armagh to see James Cribbin's team fall just short. The final was a thrilling game. Jarlath Carney's Armagh team held a sizeable lead at half time. It looked ominous for Kerry facing into the elements and trailing as they did but, inspired by Captain Jamil Kezze with eye-catching support from Jim Reidy, James Lyons and Darren Nolan they mounted a fantastic fight-back and had closed to within a goal of their rivals with time running out. A final attack by Kerry broke down and Armagh broke up field and a superb goal by Captain Jarlath Carney put the issue beyond doubt.

This Cup is sponsored by the Donohue family of Scrigg in memory of the late Julia Donohue, a former member of the staff of Scoil Iosa, and it was presented to the winning team in the school, a fitting way to end the school year. Armagh team: Aisling Tarpey, Ultan Griffin, Hannan Iqbal (Vice capt.), Azhair Tayyab, Laurence McDonagh, Faysal Kezze, Michael Naughton, Damien Callaghan,



Ballyhaunis Under-10 Hurling team, 2007. Back, L-R: Cathal Carney, Radek Czerwenak, Sean Herr, James Cribbin, Ryan Kilbane, Matthew Grogan. Front, L-R: Piaras Caulfield, Gary Higgins, Liam Herr, Brian O'Neill, Sean Carrick.

Ballyhaunis GAA Club *continued...*

Jarlath Carney (Capt.), Eddie Cleary, Ryan Kilbane, Neil Folliard, Megan Carroll, Claire Moran, Jasmine Moss, and Rory Nestor. Team Management: Kevin Henry and Seamus Caulfield.

Under-10 Hurling

Underage training started early in the New Year with a very good turnout each Saturday morning regardless of weather conditions, and continued non-stop until the end of July. Within Mayo, at U-10, the games were played on an all day blitz in Westport. Ballyhaunis were victorious over Castlebar and Westport, but lost to Tooreen who went on to win the A-Final. Ballyhaunis competed in the B-Final, where they comprehensively defeated Ballyvary.

U-10 Panel: Cathal Carney, Radek Czerwenak, Sean Herr, James Cribbin, Ryan Kilbane, Piaras Caulfield, Gary Higgins, Liam Herr, Brian O'Neill, Sean Carrick.

Under-11 Football

Ballyhaunis GAA hosted a Go Games mini-blitz involving our own club, Kilmovee and Eastern Gaels. Mayo Manager John O'Mahony and his assistant Ciaran Gallagher attended this and took charge of our team for a game. They were both very impressed with the skill levels and the commitment of our young players

Under-12 Football

The Under-12 training started on 23rd March and continued until 5th October. There were 28 training sessions with the average attendance of 22 players. Before the county competitions started we played in challenge games against Castlerea, Éire Óg and Michael Glaveys. The Grading league commenced and, with our entire panel involved, we played Balla, Ballinrobe, Charlestown, Kilmeena, and St. Gerard's.

In the Summer league we played Moy Davitts, Islandeady, Kilcommin and Ardmoy. The best performance this year was against Kilcommin in Kilcommin. The Under-13's joined in the training in September for preparation for the Under-13 league and the Joe Webb Cup.

Panel: Mohammed Ahmad, Morgan Lyons, Damien Callaghan, James Lyons, David Cleary, Conor McCarrick, Cyril Collins, Sean Mc Dermott, Jason Coyne, Jason McGoldrick, John

Cribbin, Joseph Fahey, Robert Morley, Paul Finnegan, Rory Nestor, Philip Fitzmaurice, Stephen Nolan, Arshad Arsheeb, Lisa O'Connell, Shane Healy, Micheal O'Rourke, Andrew Henry, Mark Phillips, Cian Henry, Jim Reidy, Jack Hughes, Cormac Reidy, Jamil Kezze,



Ballyhaunis Under-12 Hurling Panel, 2007. Back, L-R: Haseeb Arshad, Jamil Kezze, Morgan Lyons, Shane Healy, Kevin Kilbride, Mohammad Ahmad, Hannan Iqbal. Front, L-R: Ryan Kilbane, Joseph Kelly, James Lyons, Stephen Nolan, Stephen Ryan, Joseph Lyons.

Stephen Ryan, Kevin Kilbride, Jamie Skeffington, John Lyons, Aisling Tarpey, Joseph P. Lyons, Andrew Whelan-Manning. Team Management: James Reidy and Billy Phillips.

Under-12 Hurling

Ballyhaunis had an excellent year, losing only to Tooreen in the Group phase, thus getting to the A-Final. In the County Final, which was played in Tooreen's excellent new pitch, Tooreen ran out easy winners in the end over Ballyhaunis, who despite the loss, never gave up trying and fought to the end. Many thanks to all mentors and especially the parents who supported the team all the way. We competed in the Connacht Ground Hurling blitz in Ballinasloe and we more than held our own to reach the semi-final against Four



All the participants in the Joe Webb Cup, 2007. Back, L-R: Jason Coyne, John Ross Madden, James Lyons, Jack Hughes, James Cribbin, Jason McGoldrick, Damien Callaghan, Jamie Skeffington, Shane Healy, Darren Nolan, Andrew Henry, Stephen Ryan, Patrick Kiely, Adrian Phillips, Jason Fahey, Mark Phillips, Jamil Kezze, David Cleary, Philip Fitzmaurice, Jim Reidy, Robert Morley. Middle, L-R: Robert McCormack, Daniel McCormack, Morgan Lyons, Stephen Nolan, Conor Caulfield, Joseph Lyons, Rory Nestor, Aisling Tarpey, John Cribbin, Sean McDermott, Hannan Iqbal, Andrew Whelan-Manning, Cyril Collins, Conor McCarrick. Front, L-R: Patrick Caulfield, Cormac Reidy, Jack Coyne, Liam Foudy, Evan Fitzmaurice, Neil Carney, Roisin Lyons, Saoirse Caulfield, Gemma Foudy, Leanne Henry, Roisin Fitzmaurice, Jenny Cleary, Gary Higgins, Fraz Ahmad, James Cribbin, Shane Cribbin.

Ballyhaunis GAA Club *continued...*

Roads. However they proved that bit too strong for us on the day.

Panel: Haseeb Arshad, Jamail Kezze, Morgan Lyons, Shane Healy, Kevin Kilbride, Mohammad Ahmad, Ryan Kilbane, Joseph Kelly, James Lyons, Stephen Nolan, Stephen Ryan, Joseph Lyons, Hannan Iqbal.

Under-13 Football

This competition started in September. Training continued on Fridays with the U-13 players and the U-12 panel. We played Davitts, Garrymore, Ballaghaderreen, Kilmaine and Shrule/Glencorrib. Our best game in this competition was against Garrymore in Garrymore. This game played at 13-a-side had fast and free flowing football, with Ballyhaunis showing a greater skill and fitness and will to win.

Panel: Jarlath Carney, Jason McGoldrick, David Cleary, Eanna McNamara, Cyril Collins, Robert Morley, Jason Coyne, Rory Nestor, James Cribbin, Conor Nolan, Jason Fahey, Darren Nolan, Joey Fahey, Stephen Nolan, Hannan Iqbal, Michael O'Rourke, Shane Healy, Adrian Phillips, Jack Hughes, Mark Phillips, Jamail Kezze, Jim Reidy, Patrick Kiely, Stephen Ryan, Kevin Kilbride, Jamie Skeffington, James Lyons, Aisling Tarpey, Morgan Lyons. Team Management: James Reidy and Billy Phillips.

Joe Webb Cup

The Joe Webb Cup started in September. This year it was decided to play the competition in a league format over four Sundays. Four teams were picked from U-12 and U-13. Each team played a round robin, with the two top teams playing in the final and the third and fourth playing off as well. In an enthralling final between Kerry (Patrick Kiely's team) and Cork (James Cribbin's team) the tightest of margins saw the Kerry team win by a point in a game greatly enjoyed by a large crowd of spectators.

Kerry: Patrick Kiely, Damien Callaghan, Shane Healy, Andrew Henry, Hannan Iqbal, John Lyons, Joseph P. Lyons, Rory Nestor, Jim Reidy, Aisling Tarpey. Meath: Adrian Phillips, Eddie Cleary, Cyril Collins, Jason Coyne, Jason Fahey, James Lyons, Sean McDermott, Robert Morley, Stephen Nolan, Jamie Skeffington.



Eavan Webb Caulfield presenting the Joe Webb Cup to winning Captain, Patrick Kiely.

Dublin: Conor Nolan, David Cleary, Eanna McNamara, Philip Fitzmaurice, Jamail Kezze, Kevin Kilbride, Morgan Lyons, Conor McCarrick, Mark Phillips, Andrew Whelan-Manning. Cork: James Cribbin, John Cribbin, Darren Nolan, Joseph Fahy, Paul Finnegan, Jack Hughes, Jarlath Carney, Jason McGoldrick, Michael O'Rourke, Stephen Ryan

VHI Cúl Camp

The VHI Cúl Camp was held in Ballyhaunis from July 16th to 20th.

68 children attended - 48 boys and 20 girls. Camps are set up to introduce children to Gaelic games and to hone in on the skills involved. They were introduced to 8 skills and practices, and then monitored to see how they cope with them. This was a huge success in Ballyhaunis judging by the number of children that were awarded Gold (8 skills) and Silver Medals (6 or 7 skills). Gold Medals: Jason Coyne, Robert Morley, Kevin Byrne, Louise Mc Namara. Silver Medals: Conor Nolan, Morgan Lyons, Jarlath Carney, Jason Fahey, James Lyons, Cyril Collins, Stephen Ryan, James Cribbin, Darragh Nolan, Joey Fahy, Grace Lyons, Shannon Kedian, Aoife Nolan, Ciara Egan, Kevin Kilbride, Jim Reidy, and M. Murray. Gold Medals (Hurling): Darren Nolan, Conor Nolan. Silver Medal (Hurling): Morgan Lyons and Jason Coyne.

All the players received a Kit Bag which included a jersey, socks, bag, and bottle.

Football Stars of the Future: James Cribbin and Aisling Tarpey. Hurling Star of the Future: Conor Nolan. Feile Skills Winners: James Cribbin, Joey Fahey, Kevin Kilbride. The Stars of the Future will be invited to attend a Gala celebration where they will receive further presentations on the night. Thanks to Ger McHugh (Camp Organiser) and coaches J. Healy, N. Walsh, Niall Prenty, Jackie Moran and A. Hession.

Under-14 Football

The U-14 Team completed all 6 rounds of the League with wins over Achill, Castlebar, Ballinrobe, Westport, Garrymore and qualifying for a play off against St. Gerald's which they won. This led to a semi final games which we lost. We had a tough draw in the Championship against Ballaghaderreen losing by 5 points. We had an enjoyable season of football with a small panel of players and not

all of them were available for all the matches. However, they were a well behaved panel of players and enjoyed all their games and hopefully learned something from their experience and will continue to play a part in the success of the Club in the years ahead.



Gearoid Keane, Captain of the Under-14 Hurling team, 2007, receiving the cup from Johnny Hopkins after winning the 'B' Final.

Panel: Jason Kiely, Patrick Kiely, Kieran McDermott, Jarlath Carney, Eoghan Collins, James Cribbin, John Flynn, Adrian Phillips, Sean Griffin, Martin McDonagh, Shane Murphy, Conor Nolan, Darren Nolan, Lisa O'Connell, Hannan Iqbal, Shane Healy, Eanna McNamara, Gearoid Keane (Capt.), Jamail Kezze. Team Management: Hugh Rudden and Michael Murren.

Under-14 Hurling

The U-14 Hurlers were beaten by Tooreen and Castlebar in the league phase and then played in the B group where they won all their games, defeating Belmullet in the Final in Crossmolina. Congrats to all concerned.

Panel: Haseeb Arshad, Damien Callaghan, Jarlath Carney, James Cribbin, John Flynn, Sean Griffin, Hannan Iqbal, Sheraz Ul Hassan, Shane Healy, Gearoid Keane, Kevin Kilbride, Patrick Kiely, James Lyons, Joseph Lyons, Morgan Lyons, Kieran McDermott, Shane Murphy, Conor Nolan, Darren Nolan, Stephen Nolan, Lisa

Ballyhaunis GAA Club *continued...*

O'Connell, Stephen Ryan, Aisling Tarpey.

Under-15 Football

Our Under-15s have had a good run in Division 3 of the league by finishing second and qualifying for the semi-finals. We took maximum points from games against Breaffy, Islandeady, Burrishoole and Kiltimagh, only to be pipped by Ballaghaderreen to top the table. Our semi-final clash against Kilmaine was a high-scoring, entertaining contest.

We fought bravely, without injured Mayo Under-15 development panellists Isaac Carroll and Ryan Worden, and unfortunately lost out by a narrow margin. No doubt there is a lot to look forward to from this bunch of young footballers who have been so successful in the past few years.

Panel: Jason Fahy, Kieran Kiely, Gerard Grogan, Sean Griffin, Conor Freeley, Patrick Kiely, Kevin Byrne, Cathal Fahy, Gearoid Keane, Kieran McDermott, Eoghan Collins, Damien Kedian, Jarlath Carney, Isaac Carroll, John Flynn, Hannan Iqbal, James Cribbin, Ryan Worden, Martin McDonagh, Eanna McNamara, Darragh Richardson, Christopher McDonagh, Conor Nolan, Shane Murphy. Team Management: William Nestor, Mike Dillon and Vinnie Caulfield.

Under-16 Football

This year our Under-16 football team made a big step up, by competing in Division Two of the league, and for their first time in the 'A' Championship.

In the opening round of the league we were narrowly defeated by a strong Ardnaree team. We claimed our first points in the league with a home win against Charlestown in an exhilarating game and then faced Swinford but we were beaten comprehensively, despite staying in touch for a long period. We had two successive wins, away to Ballaghaderreen and at home to Claremorris. The battle was on for a place in the league semi-finals with two games to play. Against Ballintubber at home, it looked bad for us at half time, but driven by a great team spirit and determination we pulled the deficit back and earned a draw. Against Westport, we needed a result to secure a place in the semi-finals and, without Ryan Worden and Conor Freeley, we lead for majority of the game. Our captain, David

McNamara, received an injury and we simply weren't able to cope physically and Westport ran out eventual winners.

Our East-Mayo semi-final clash with Charlestown was played in Aughamore and even though we pulled away and had a seven point advantage with ten minutes of normal time to play Charlestown clawed back with a late goal deep into injury time to level it. We were awarded a free-kick and the outstanding Isaac Carroll sent it over the bar for a one point victory and a place in the East-Mayo 'A' final against Swinford. We went into the final as under-dogs: our team fought hard in the first half and trailed by only two points at half-time thanks to accurate free-taking from Kevin



Kevin Fitzmaurice, Captain, Ballyhaunis Under-16 Hurling team, receiving the trophy from Luke Fitzmaurice, Chairman of Mayo Hurling Board.

Moran and tenacious defending by Cathal Fahy. In the second half we drew level with Swinford as Kevin Byrne crashed the ball to the net from a David McNamara free kick. Unfortunately, that was as close as we were to come. Two late goals for Swinford confirmed their win but the score line didn't justify the game. The majority of this panel are eligible for U-16 again next year and have shown terrific promise for the future at a high level. Their commitment and excellent



Ballyhaunis Under-16 'A' East Mayo finalists, 2007. Back, L-R: Patrick Waldron (trainer), Michael Webb (trainer), Mike Dillon (trainer), Ayaz Ul Hassan, Kevin Morley, Gerard Grogan, David McNamara, Isaac Carroll, Joseph Flynn, Cathal Fahy, Paul Freeley, Fergal Fitzmaurice, Kevin Moran, Padraic Waldron, William Nestor (manager), Donal Moran (chairman). Front, L-R: Adrian Ruane, Damien Kedian, Conor Freeley, Kieran Kiely, Eoghan Collins, Aiden Richardson, Faraz Ul Hassan, Ryan Worden, John Francis McDonagh.

Ballyhaunis GAA Club *continued...*



Ballyhaunis Under-16 Hurling team, after winning the Mayo Under-16 Hurling B Final, with mentors and supporters. Back, L-R: Shannon Kedian, Tommy Kedian, Ray Lucey, Paul Carney, Howard Morley, Gearoid Keane, Martin Keane, Sean Griffin, Zia Shafique, Cathal Fahy, John Flynn, Alan Lucey, Kevin Morley, Adrian Phillips, Jamil Kezze, David Lyons, Ayaz Ul Hassan, Tadhg Morley, Joseph Flynn, Jason Powers. Front, L-R: Martina Kedian, Geraldine Murphy, Gary Patterson, Kieran McDermott, Darren Nolan, Shane Murphy, Kieran Kiely, Faraz Ul Hassan, Kevin Fitzmaurice, James Cribbin, Damien Kedian, Sheraz Ul Hassan, Hannan Iqbal, Peter Higgins.

discipline throughout the year is a credit to the club and should be acknowledged.

Panel: Joseph Flynn, Kieran Kiely, Adrian Ruane, Paul Freeley, Ryan Worden, Cathal Fahey, Conor Freeley, David McNamara, Isaac Carroll, Paul Carney, Kevin Byrne, Kevin Moran, Rory Collins, Fergal Fitzmaurice, Damien Kedian, Gerard Grogan, Aidan Richardson, John McDonagh, Kevin Morley, Kieran McDermott. Management: William Nestor, Michael Dillon and Patrick Waldron.

Under-16 Hurling

The U-16 Hurlers played their initial games in the A group, and after been beaten in the County semi-final the lads played the remainder of the season in the B group where they won all their games and got to the B Final. In a gigantic struggle they eventually overcame a determined Castlebar team.

Panel: Ayaz Ul Hassan, Jarlath Carney, James Cribbin, Cathal Fahy, Faraz Ul Hassan, David Fitzmaurice, Kevin Fitzmaurice, John Flynn, Joseph Flynn, Sean Griffin, Hannan Iqbal, Gearoid Keane, Damien Kedian, Kieran Kiely, Patrick Kiely, David Lyons, Kevin Morley, Kieran McDermott, Shane Murphy, Conor Nolan, Darren Nolan, Sean Ronayne, Zia Shafique, Sheraz Ul Hassan.

Under-17 Football

The U-17 team were defeated by Ballintubber in the first round.

Panel: John Gallagher, Liam McDermott, Ruairi Finan, Tadhg Morley, Brian Hunt, (Capt.), David McNamara, Brian Waldron, Kevin Nestor, Stephen Hoban, Patrick Freeley, Kevin Byrne, Ryan Worden, Joe Flynn, Kevin Moran, Paul Carney, Damien Keadin, Gerard Grogan, Fergal Fitzmaurice, Kamran Afzal, Kieran Kiely, Kevin Morley. Management: Mike Dillon, John Prenty; Tom Waldron.

Minor Football

The Minor Football team have had a great year and qualified for the Minor League Final against Burrishoole. Unfortunately, they came up against a physically stronger team in the County Final and were eventually beaten by 1-12 to 0-10. They were undefeated in the League following wins over Louisburgh, Shrule/Glencorrib, Kiltimagh, Achill, Ballaghaderreen and Kiltane. In the County Minor

League semi-final they easily defeated county champions Shrule/Glencorrib. The championship was a bitter disappointment where a combination of injury and complacency saw a first round defeat to a Ballaghaderreen team that we had easily defeated in the league a couple of weeks previously.

Panel: Ruairi Finan, Tadhg Morley, Brian Hunt, Enda Griffin, Seamus O'Dwyer (Capt.), David McNamara, John Gallagher, Liam McDermott, Brian Waldron, Niall Prenty, Kevin Nestor, Stephen Hoban, John Jordan, Aidan Fitzmaurice, Patrick Freeley, Craig Hughes, Kevin Byrne, Ryan Worden, Joe Flynn, Kevin Moran, Paul Carney. Management: Tommy Waldron, John J. Hoban, John Prenty.

Minor Hurling

In the Mminor championship we comprehensively defeated James Stephens and Castlebar which duly resulted in us qualifying for the semi-final where we were narrowly beaten by Belmullet in a pulsating encounter. The final score ended up Belmullet 7-10. Ballyhaunis 5-10.

Panel: Kamran Afzal, Ayaz Ul Hassan, Paul Carney, C. Fahy, D. Fitzmaurice, K. Fitzmaurice, Joseph Flynn, Stephen Hoban, Brian Hunt, Faraz Ul Hassan, Damien Kedian, Kieran Kiely, Liam McDermott, Kevin Morley, Tadhg Morley, S. Nolan, Seamus O'Dwyer, Brian Waldron. Management: John J. Hoban,

Suck Valley League

The invitation by the organisers of the Suck Valley League to participate in the 2007 competition was a welcome feature as it provided games for U-12, U-14, U-16, and U-18 teams at a time of year when games within the county are not available. At U-12 level, we performed quite well, winning two of our group games but lost out to Mountbellew, who went on to win the Final.

Under-21 Football

The U-21 team were hampered by injury and work commitments and were defeated by The Neale & Davitts in the Championship.

Panel: David Hannan, Kevin Gallagher, Austin Lyons, Conor Mulrennan, Robert Grogan, Adrian Brennan, J.C. Halpin, Arslan Afzal, Stephen Jenkins, Ruairi Finan, Tadhg Morley, Brian Hunt, Enda Griffin, Seamus O'Dwyer (Capt.), Brian Waldron, Niall Prenty, Kevin Nestor, John Gallagher, Liam McDermott, John

Ballyhaunnis GAA Club *continued...*



Ballyhaunnis Senior Team, 2007

Back, L-R: John Prenty, Joe Freeley, Stephen Shanaghy, Fergal Kelly, Vinnie Healy, David Hannan, Jason Morley, Kevin Gallagher, Christy McCrudden, Paul Finn (Capt.), Declan Doyle, Liam Lyons, Niall Richardson, Paul Jordan, John Gallagher, Brendan Rudden. Front, L-R: Conor Mulrennan, Paul Prenty, Hughie Carney, Keith Higgins, Robert Grogan, Derek McConn, Derek Walsh, Austin Lyons, Brian Mulrennan, Patrick Keane, Seamus O'Dwyer, Niall Prenty.

Jordan, Aidan Fitzmaurice, Michael Waldron. Team Management: John Higgins, John Prenty, Tommy Waldron.

Senior Football

The Senior Football panel had an outstanding run in the Intermediate championship. In the first round they defeated Mayo Gaels in Mayo Abbey and followed this up with a victory over Kilmaine at home. This effectively guaranteed their involvement in the Quarter Finals. In the third round a much depleted team were defeated by Davitts. Their best display of the year was against Ballintubber, in the Quarter Final, where they suffered the agony of a last kick of the game goal to lose by a point. In the East Mayo championship they were undefeated up until July where the promotion of a number of players to the Intermediate team left us bereft of numbers to continue in the competition.

In the league we have struggled due to the fact that we have been unable to field a settled team during the campaign and in fact have never fielded the same team twice.

Panel: David Hannan, Conor Mulrennan, Vinnie Healy, Aidan Fitzmaurice, Robert Grogan, Declan Doyle, Derek McConn, Hugh Carney, Keith Higgins, Joe Freeley, Seamus O'Dwyer, Fergal Kelly, Austin Lyons, Stephen Shanaghy, Jason Morley, John Prenty, Niall Prenty, Christy McCrudden, Paul Prenty, Kevin Gallagher, Derek Walsh, Paul Finn (Capt.), Ciaran Griffin, Enda Griffin, Liam Lyons, Paul Jordan, Phelim Carroll, John Gallagher, William Nestor, Pat Keane, Brendan Rudden, Brian Mulrennan, P.J. Fleming, Brian Kilcourse, Niall Richardson. Management: Fergal Kelly, John Higgins, Kurt Reinhardt, Tommy Grogan.

Junior & Senior Hurling



Ballyhaunnis Senior Hurling team, who competed in the Senior Section of the Kilmacud Crokes tournament. Back, L-R: Martin McDermott (Manager), Peter Healy, Derek McConn, Tadhg Buckley, Hugh McKermitt (Capt.), Paul Lynch, Jason Powers. Front, L-R: Pierce Higgins, Derek Walsh, Keith Higgins, Micheal Walsh, Stephen Hoban.

The Junior and Senior teams commenced training in April and set out hoping to build on the three in a row achieved by them in 2006.

In the junior group stages we conquered Castlebar, overcame Westport by 3 points to secure our spot in the semi-final where we conquered our close rivals Tooreen to set up a final showdown with James Stephens Ballina. In the final Ballyhaunnis looked dead and buried as Ballina led by 4 points 3 minutes into injury time. However, Ballyhaunnis' 'never say die' attitude was in evidence once more as a goal by Pierce Higgins and a point by Brian Hunt forced extra time. The lads never took their foot off the pedal in extra time and 1-1 from Fergal Walsh in this period secured that Ballyhaunnis claimed the Genfitt Cup after

Ballyhaunis GAA Club *continued...*

an eventful contest with 6 points to spare.

The seniors were aiming for four-in-a-row in the T.J. Tyrrell Championship as they set out in their first game defeating Castlebar in the first round by six points. Ballyhaunis subsequently went on to play out their customary draw with Tooreen (4th draw between the sides in 5 games) before defeating Westport, Belmullet and Ballina to qualify for the semi-finals where Westport awaited. We overcame Westport and had to pull out all the stops in order to book their county final berth against James Stephens, Ballina. The final played in McHale Park was a ding-dong affair with Ballyhaunis leading for long periods of the game. However, a resolute Ballina side never gave up and fought their way back into the game on a number of occasions. In the end a mixture of few missed chances and a number of inauspicious decisions resulted in Ballyhaunis going down by a point to the northsiders. Well done to all involved on a gallant display. A special thanks to our supporters and all our sponsors.

Senior Team Panel: Adrian Brennan, Tadhg Buckley, Hugh Carney, Pdraig Carney Stephen Carney, Luke Cribbin, Brian Gallagher, Peter Healy, Keith Higgins, Brian Hunt, Joe Kelly, Pat Kelly, David Lynch, Paul Lynch, Austin Lyons, Fergal Lyons, Liam Lyons, Derek McConn, Paul McConn, Christy McCrudden, Liam McDermott, Hugh McKernitt, Tadhg Morley, Anthony Murphy, Shane Nolan, Jason Powers, Michael Regan, Derek Walsh, Fergal Walsh, Michael Walsh.

Club Players on County Panels

Interprovincial Football: Keith Higgins. Senior Football: Keith Higgins. Minor Football: Niall Prenty. Minor League: Niall Prenty, Aidan Fitzmaurice. East Mayo Minor Team County Cup: Niall Prenty, Aidan Fitzmaurice, Seamus O'Dwyer. U-16 Football: David McNamara. U-15 Connacht GAA Residential Academy: Isaac Carroll. U-15 School of Excellence: Ryan Worden, Isaac Carroll, Damien Kedian. Interprovincial Hurling: Derek Walsh, Keith Higgins. Senior Hurling: Keith Higgins, Derek Walsh, Derek McConn, Paul McConn. U-18 Hurling: Stephen Hoban, Tadhg Morley, Brian Hunt. U-16 Hurling: Joseph Flynn, David Lyons, Gearoid Keane, Kieran Kiely. U-15 Hurling: David Lyons, Kieran Kiely Gearoid Keane, Sean Griffin, Kevin Morley. U-14 Hurling: Gearoid Keane, Sean Griffin, Shane Murphy, John Flynn. U-14 Skills: Gearoid Keane

Congratulations

Heartiest Congratulations to Johnny Biesty who received a GAA Presidents Award at Croke Park for his outstanding service to the Association that has spanned over 50 years. Johnny's Administrative capabilities have always been to the fore and he served as Mayo Senior team selector, secretary of Mayo Grounds Committee and has been Chairman, Secretary and Trustee with our Club. As well as winning Club titles with Ballyhaunis, I feel that Johnny has demonstrated in his own individual way the true spirit of volunteerism through his involvement with our Club over a long number of years.

Congratulations to David McConn on his All Ireland success with Roscommon Hurling team.

Congratulations to Frank Browne on his achievements with the Mayo Ladies and the Sligo Hurling Team.

Congratulations to the 2nd year footballers of Ballyhaunis Community School who competed in the Final of both League and Championship and ran out worthy winners of the Championship. Congratulations to Damien Kedian who showed true leadership and commitment as Captain, and to the other Ballyhaunis Club players involved. Congratulations to our U-16 Hurling Team who won the "B" Championship this year.

Congratulations to Mary Prenty who was voted Club Person of the



Mary Prenty receiving the Ballyhaunis GAA Club Person of the Year Award, from Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh.

Year for 2006.

Scór

On Friday 2nd March Micheal Ó Muircheartaigh captivated both the young and not so young of Ballyhaunis when, as guest of the Ballyhaunis GAA club, he attracted a capacity attendance to the Bórd na nÓg Forum and to the Club Annual Social which was held in Ballyhaunis Golf Club. There was spontaneous applause when Micheal arrived to the Bórd na nÓg Forum where he was entertained by the Mary Elwood Dancers who brought the Scór County honours to Ballyhaunis earlier this year. When players as young as 8 year old can stand up in a crowded hall and question a panel of adults which included Micheal Ó Muircheartaigh, with questions such as 'the



Gearoid Keane from Gurteen, Ballyhaunis, pictured receiving his memento from G.A.A. President Nicky Brennan, after he came third in the Ring/Rackard category Skills Competition at the All-Ireland Under-14s Feile na nGael in Kilkenny. Gearoid is son of Martin and Carol Keane, Gurteen.

prospects for Mayo this year?', 'what was the best game you ever broadcast?', then we can be proud of our young people and confident for the future.

The panel included Piaras Ó Raghaille, Oifigeach Gaeilge,

Ballyhaunis GAA Club *continued...*

Bord Chondae Mhuigheo, John Cribbin, who won an All-Ireland medal this year with Mayo, and Emmett Keane, President and Donal Moran, Chairman of the Club. Master of Ceremonies was Kevin Henry. When the Forum was over the young people queued up for autographs and photographs with Micheál, while the adults were already waiting for Micheál at the Golf Club.

Club Social

The adults were equally enthusiastic as Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh presented medals to the 3-in-a-row County Title Senior Hurling team, to the 'Hurler of the Year' Hughie McKermitt, and to 'Footballer of the Year' Derek McConn, and a special award from Ballyhaunis GAA Club to All-Ireland Under-21 Football Captain Keith Higgins. Donal Moran, Chairman, presented a piece of crystal engraved "Dó Mhicheál Ó Muircheartaigh le dea-mhein ó Cumann Lúth Cleas Gael Beal-Átha-hAmhnais". County Board Chairman James Waldron, Hurling Chairman Luke Fitzmaurice and John Hopkins, County Hurling Secretary were there also to welcome him. The whole experience is expertly recorded on DVD by Donal Shanaghy. 'Go m-beirimid beo ar an am seo arís'.

Mary Prenty (Club Secretary)



Three generations. Bill, Liam and Jim O'Boyle, Carrowkeel



Anne Marrinan, Knock Road, daughter of Bea and the late John Marrinan, pictured on her graduation in Palliative Care Nursing Studies.



Simon Coleman, who graduated with a BSc Analytical Science from DCU. Simon is son of Brian and Bernie Coleman (nee Keegan, formerly of Main St.)

Growing Up In Redford

*"Lonely I wander through scenes of my childhood,
They call back those memories of happy days of yore,
Gone are the old folks, the house stands deserted,
No light in the window, no welcome at the door."*

When John Pa Burke asked me to write a piece for the magazine, I reluctantly said "alright". Then I said, what will I write about? – and I thought about my childhood and teenage years growing up in Redford, my native village and a place very dear to my heart.

I grew up in the quaint but idyllic and picturesque village of Átha Dearg, 'the Red Ford'. I have such happy memories of my village and the lovely neighbours who lived there. We were all one happy family. I had two sisters, Mary and Bridie, and a brother Paddy.

As I write this, memories come flooding back to a place where life was happy and carefree. Our nearest neighbour was Willie Feeney. Willie was special and kind to us all as children and in our teenage years. Whenever we wanted any help he was there. He was our mechanic when our bicycles were punctured; he was our painter, decorator, matchmaker, teacher and musician. He would kindly allow us into the house for céilís and play the violin for us all night accompanied by Paddy Lyons of Gurrane. Kay Waldron and I did step dancing and Willie would always say: "Will I give ye Miss McCleod's?" I am sure we would not be able to dance to any other tune. My dear mother (R.I.P.) would always say at mealtimes: "Leave a bit for Willeen". His favourite song was 'Nell Flaherty's Drake', and some of the verses were quite a tongue twister but he never made a mistake.

Willie had a Yankee sister who taught us to read the cards and promised to show me the most beautiful blackberries I ever saw if I helped her in the bog. She married Tommy Slattery from Garrafrauns and when she would visit us in the later years she would give a lovely rendition of 'My Darling Galway Boy'. She always wore big hats and would maintain she was the nicest and best dressed lady going into Garrafrauns church. We loved to see her coming, as she was full of life and laughter.

Visiting House

Our house was a visiting house plus card-playing. John William Delaney would arrive without fail three or four nights a week and would have us enthralled with ghost stories and his adventures in the Fen country in England where he was always the boss. These stories would be interrupted when the game of 25 was started and suddenly it was silence until somebody reneged or missed a trick, and then the explaining and arguing would start until, after much debate, the game would continue again. John William, who wasn't a card player, only a story teller, didn't relish the thought of sitting quietly listening to all the mistakes and counting of the game, but still he would wait patiently to see who would win the "sweep".

My father (R.I.P.) loved cards and the game of 25. He would often arrive home from a neighbour's house on a cold winter's night with a 'pig's head'. He could recount games and tricks that were played years before.

Good neighbours

Just next door we got a lovely new neighbour, Pat Maguire who married Patricia Walsh. He brought with him music, wit and laughter. All his family were musical and could play instruments and the Fleadh Ceoil was never as enjoyable as a night in Maguire's with music and song and dancing.

The highlight of the year was when the Connell brothers came home on holidays, everybody in the village was invited to a lavish party. They were very generous to us all. Partying went on for at least two weeks. Then further down the road lived my dear Aunt

Maggie Coen; she was so kind and generous and the kettle was always on the boil, so it is today with her son Jim whom I often visit and we reminisce of times past. Also her family Bridie, Jerry (R.I.P.) and Tom. Bridie has remained my life long friend.

There were more unforgettable characters living nearby also. Pat Folliard, Goddie Connell, Jim Judge and Maggie Waldron. Pat Folliard didn't emigrate to England until he was seventy, but years before that he was in America. Pat and Goddie were inseparable and always arrived home for St. Patrick's Day looking spick and span and wearing shamrock on their lapels. Maggie Waldron was a motherly figure and we all called her Auntie. She made sure we dressed properly, walked properly and kept the seams of our stockings straight! She was very fashion conscious herself and was always dressed immaculately. She also kept a watchful eye on all the girls and boys who came to dance in Buckley's Hall, which was a famous 'Ballroom of Romance' in Redford long before the film. I never had the pleasure of going there as it was demolished when we were young. Patrick and Mai Burke and family were kind neighbours also.

To school through the fields

I attended Derrylea National School, and all of us from Redford had to cross over fields on our way to school. Coming home from school with our inquiring minds, we walked in slow motion and checked flowers, weeds and unusual stones, feasted on wild berries in season and sometimes sampled Uncle Tom Ruane's turnips and carrots. They tasted delicious, no question but they were organic.

Larry Murphy always left his gate open so we could relish and enjoy his beautiful gooseberries, blackcurrants and apples. Sarah, his wife, would keep her thatched cottage immaculate and we would shout every morning, "what's the time?" and Sarah would answer "half nine". We just loved the rhyming sound of her voice.

We loved to stop and talk to Jim Moran and his wife; he called her the Duchess. Then we would all assemble at my aunt and uncle's house in Johnstown. I often wondered how Aunt Nora was forever patient and kind to us all, and Uncle Tom (Ruane) would be oblivious to us all as he did his daily chores on the farm.

In Derrylea our teachers were Mr. Cooney and Mrs. Higgins. Mr. Cooney was very severe on his pupils. I remember one morning he asked a boy, "Where is your brother today?" and he answered, "He's gone to Bray, Sir". The teacher wittingly replied, "He was long enough an ass and now he's gone to Bray". This particular boy was gone on a holiday to Bray with the boy scouts. Even though some of us saw the funny side of it we dare not giggle or we would be punished severely.

Mrs. Higgins was a wonderful teacher. She was kind and motherly and gave her full attention to all her pupils. On Saturday mornings she would take Kay Waldron and I to her house in Ballyhaunis for private tuition. She prepared us for scholarships and feiseanna for which I am forever grateful. As a result of her teaching we were more up-to-standard when we went to secondary school, but that's for another day.

I have lovely memories of growing up in Redford and all those wonderful neighbours I had the pleasure of knowing. Most of them are gone to their eternal home.

[First published in the Cloonfad Magazine 2006]

Noreen Coggins (nee Lyons)

Alcoholics Anonymous

Meetings held in Scoil Iosa Junior School (formerly St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy primary school): Sunday nights at 8.30 (Winter) and 9 (Summer). Al-Anon and Al-Ateen meet in Scoil Iosa Senior School, Abbeyquarter at the same times.

Tuam Pastoral Assembly

'A Future Full of Hope' for the Archdiocese of Tuam

Tuam Diocesan Pastoral Assembly took place on the weekend of 11th and 12th November 2006. For two days Archbishop Michael Neary and over 350 representatives of laity, religious and clergy from every parish across the Archdiocese gathered in St. Jarlath's College. Their mission was to review and identify the pastoral priorities of the Archdiocese, and to draw up a co-ordinated pastoral plan for the future. It was the culmination of a process of preparation and consultation in every parish throughout the Archdiocese which began in June 2005.

Having appointed a Steering Group made up of both lay and religious under the Chairmanship of Fr. Tod Nolan, Archbishop Michael Neary issued a Pastoral Letter on the theme 'A Future Full of Hope' in September 2005. This letter was to form the basis of a discussion document for families, parishes and all concerned parties. It set out five main issues which would be considered:

- Sharing Ministry – what is needed to support those who are actively involved in the life and ministry of parish?
- Renewing Liturgy – what makes for good Sunday Liturgy at parish level?
- Engaging with Young People – what is needed, at parish level, to nourish the faith and personal development of young people?
- Building Community – how can a parish best provide welcome and refuge for the stranger, the outcast and the alienated of society?
- Preparing for Change – what new structures does parish need in order to grow and develop?

Following this 110 facilitators were trained for parish meetings which took place in every parish during November and December 2005. In 2006 the material gathered at the parish meetings was collated and feedback delivered to parish groups. There were further gatherings at deanery and cluster level, junior assembly in second level schools, meetings with students in third level colleges and with various church organisations. Ballyhaunis is in the deanery of Claremorris along with Began, Knock, Aghamore, Ballindine and Crossboyne. The cluster includes the parishes of Ballyhaunis, Began, Knock and Aghamore.

During Lent there was a concerted movement of prayer throughout the Diocese for the success of the Assembly, prayer cards and bookmarks were distributed containing a special prayer which was recited at weekend Masses in every parish. On October 8th a special Mass was celebrated in Tuam Cathedral and Assembly candles were blessed and presented to parish representatives. These candles were taken back to the various parish churches and lit at each Mass as a sign of unity and hope as God's family in the diocese of Tuam.

Here in Ballyhaunis our parish meeting took place on 30th November 2005, and was facilitated by Jarlath Fahey and Michael Dee. Those present formed discussion groups where ideas and opinions were aired and shared. Responses from each group were listed on posters and displayed for scrutiny by everyone present who then selected their priorities by placing stickers opposite their chosen response. Progress on preparation for the Assembly was discussed at all Pastoral Council meetings during the year, and members attended the Mass in Tuam Cathedral on October 8th. Kay Curley, Chairperson of the Pastoral Council accepted the Assembly candle on behalf of the parish. Three members, Kay Curley, Patricia Plunkett and Mary Donnelly along with Jarlath Fahey, Fr. Cooney and Fr. Burke represented the parish at the Assembly on 11th and 12th November 2006.

Over 350 representatives from every parish across the Archdiocese were present. An array of posters and art work by Primary School children in various parishes adorned the walls of St. Jarlath's College.

On Saturday five groups came together and each group worked on their response to one of the five areas of Pastoral Concern; Sharing Ministry, Renewing Liturgy, Engaging with Young People, Building Community and Preparing for Change. Their remit was to name two achievable tasks which would address the issues in each area, and to nominate two people from each group onto a body which would work on implementing these tasks. Each group sub-divided into discussion groups of eight to ten people and a facilitator. The format followed was similar to the parish meetings with responses displayed on posters and priorities selected by majority of the whole group.

On Sunday the ten tasks were presented to the whole gathering and these form the basis of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan. The Assembly concluded with concelebrated Mass in the Cathedral during which the ten nominees were formally commissioned by the Archbishop as members of the Body whose task it will be to implement the Plan. The ten tasks are briefly as follows:

Sharing Ministry

Education, training and support of those involved.

- To identify, recruit and train individuals for specific ministries and to identify and employ/provide resource people to realise this task.

Ongoing planning and open discussion of ministry in parish

- To encourage each parish to form a core group (from existing Pastoral Councils) to develop and train ministry teams in three/four core areas (e.g. Liturgy, Communication, Faith Formation, etc).

Renewing Liturgy

Training on Liturgy; including an understanding of the Mass and the place of the homily

- To provide localised training and resources for volunteers involved in all types of liturgy. This will require that each parish have a liturgy group.

Encouraging greater participation; involving various parish groups/station areas/families/children.

- To appoint a Diocesan Resource Person to enable parishes to fulfil their liturgical mandate.

Engaging with Young People

Listening to, affirming and involving young people

- To set up a Diocesan Youth Pastoral Team to train and guide Parish Youth Teams. Parish Youth Teams made up of both lay and ordained will set up a forum to listen to, affirm and involve young people. This will be done through organising social and liturgical events, retreats, charity works and general activities.

Catholic Education; home, school and parish

- To resource and train full time lay catechists who would organise information evenings and courses and support schools and parishes in providing instruction on Catholic education.

Building Community

Developing a parish faith community

- To train people for various lay ministries in order to promote mutual confidence between lay and ordained and to enable lay people to give direction, support and leadership.

Outreach to newcomers, alienated and vulnerable

- To ensure that every Pastoral Council will set up a committee (including youth) to welcome, communicate with and assist newcomers, alienated, vulnerable and prisoners. This committee will identify needs and provide training and local information packs.

Tuam Pastoral Assembly *continued...*

Preparing for Change

Ongoing formation and development of pastoral councils

- To promote a standard Diocesan Pastoral Council training programme.

Facing the reality of fewer priests

- To set up a standard Diocesan training programme to train and prepare laity in leadership roles and in the administration of the various ministries at parish level.

An Implementation Body has now been set up consisting of the ten elected representatives from the Assembly itself, three nominees of the Council of Priests, three nominees of the Council of the Laity and three nominees of the Archbishop.

It is evident that there is a lot of overlapping between the various tasks set, and the Implementation Body has been charged with working on this. Meetings have taken place at regular intervals and progress reports are issued and published in parish newsletters. The latest update issued in October states: "Following widespread consultation with Pastoral Councils a programme is being set up and a team of resource people trained to offer support and assistance to Pastoral Councils. The efficient running of meetings will be integral to this programme. In the area of Youth the first steps are being taken to form a Diocesan Youth Council. The group working in the area of

Liturgy is actively engaged in a process which will lead to the provision of a diocesan liturgical co-ordinator and support and training for parish liturgy groups".

While the Implementation Body has a central role in implementing the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, it is the responsibility of the whole Archdiocese to bring the Plan to life.

As a member of the Parish Pastoral Council it was a privilege to be involved with the Assembly process, particularly the two day event in St. Jarlath's College. The atmosphere was certainly one of hope, enthusiasm and courage. There are undoubtedly enormous challenges ahead in developing and sustaining faith. Being part of a group – people, priests, religious and bishop – working together to prepare ourselves to face these challenges was both memorable and inspirational. It is indeed a good news story which with God's help will lead to a future full of hope.

Mary Donnelly

Annagh would like to thank all its patrons, past and present. Please support local business and industry.

My Long Distance Triathlon Experience

On July 15th 2007 I took part in the World Age-Group Long Distance Triathlon Championships in Lorient, in the Brittany region of France. The distances involved were 3km swim (roughly 2 miles), 80km bike (48 miles) and 20km run (12 miles). Triathlon is one of the fastest growing sports in Ireland and England with events taking place over varying distances from Sprint to Ironman.

I first started competing in triathlons in the summer of 2003. It was something I had in the back of my mind for quite a while but having done the London marathon, I needed a new challenge.

I really enjoyed the variety that triathlon training provided so there was never any time to get too bored of any of the disciplines. I dabbled with Olympic distance events (1.5km swim, 40km bike and 10km run) on and off for a couple of years in between doing some rowing and finally decided to train properly for a full season in order to try and compete for Ireland at the Age Group Worlds this year.

My initial plan to go for the Olympic distance had to be changed due to a work commitments and I decided to change to the longer event. In the end, I ended up being stronger at this longer distance, but it was a steep learning curve! Apart from the obvious difference of being double the distance, and therefore, more training was required, the need to eat and hydrate while racing is far more essential than in shorter races.

Olympic distance races take me between 2 hours 20 and 2 hours 40 whereas Long Distance could be between 5 and 6 hours depending on the course. I had to experiment and practice with different brands of gels and energy bars and drinks so I would have enough energy to finish the race. A painful experience at my first attempt over the distance at a race in Cornwall where I hit the infamous "wall" 8km into the run highlighted the need to get this right. I somehow managed to finish 5th female despite the lack of fuel, so I knew I was doing something right!

Training

After a long and solid winter's training, I enlisted the help of a coach to write the final two months training programme which ensured I was raring to go by race day, confident I had done all I needed to do. It meant getting up at 5.20am most days to fit training in around my job with many days where I would do one session before work and one afterwards, or sometimes even two before work.

It was on one of these early morning training sessions – a 90km bike ride in the Surrey Hills in the rain – that I remembered my first experience of triathlon, which was in Ballyhaunis. (I think I may have been questioning why I was doing this rather than still being in bed!). One summer when I was a teenager, there was a summer sports camp run at the swimming pool by Siobhan Byrne (the lifeguard at the time), and on the last night we had a mini triathlon. So it was all Siobhan's fault for planting the seed of interest in the first place.

Given the general lack of summer weather this year, some of the long rides were challenging, but I kept thinking about race day and pulling on the green of Ireland and that pushed me on up the hills.

Before I knew it, I was travelling to France for the race weekend. The elite race was taking place just two hours before our race started so they would be on the run leg while we were on the bike. They also shared the same transition area but had a specific area near the top. It was a very big transition – at least 500m long and my rack space was right at the bottom near the exit. A long run to it, but at least easy to find.

Swim course

The swim course was fairly straightforward – two laps of a rectangle with a climb up and over the start pontoon in the middle. The course is laid out with massive inflatable yellow buoys and you have to go to the left of all buoys. I am always surprised at how far it looks from

My Long Distance Triathlon Experience *continued...*

land but the water was flat, always a good thing, and not very cold – it was an inlet from the sea so it was salt water but no waves, thankfully. Wetsuits are compulsory for the majority of triathlons and I am always grateful for the extra buoyancy they provide, not to mention the warmth.

The bike was a 2 lap out and back along the coast road with some undulations and one big hill either end including one straight out of transition. The run course was a 3 lap affair and followed some of the bike course along a dual-carriageway (closed to traffic) before turning around at a fly-over and coming back into the transition area and looping around there, which was very spectator friendly and great for support when you needed it most.

Bikes had to be checked and racked the evening before and then it was back to hotel for dinner and an early night. We had met up with some other members of the Irish Team during the day and wished each other luck as we parted. I felt surprisingly tired that day but was in bed by 9pm. and slept soundly all night – no nerves yet then!

On race day, we were up at 6am. for a fairly large breakfast, get all our race kit together, make up drinks, check and re-check the race bag before heading to the course. Thankfully, the weather looked good – dry but cloudy. In a race of five hours, blazing sunshine doesn't help much. Everyone had to be out of transition by 8.30am even though my race didn't start until 10.45.

Laying out your kit in transition is a bit of a ritual on race day and all part of the pre-race routine. Each person has a rack for their bike and a small space for kit to be laid out ready for a quick change. Helmet, race belt with number and sunglasses on bike handlebars, bike shoes, running shoes and hat to keep off the sun on ground to the left as well as spare drinks bottles with energy drinks and gels to be taken on the run leg. The nerves usually kick in as I travel to the race venue but are a necessary part of racing really. The pre-race routine helps keep them in control too.

Once all that was done, I took my wetsuit, goggles and swim hat and went to find a spot to sit and watch (and marvel at) the elite start and swim and first transition (T1), and relax until it was time to squash myself into my wetsuit and gather in the marshalling pen. A few photos (the wetsuit not the most attractive of things) and a hug and good luck kiss from Iain and off to the pontoon for the swim start.

Survival of the fittest

It's hard to describe the swim in a triathlon to those who have never done one. It's a bit of a cross between a wrestling match and a rugby scrum in a washing machine. You will get hit, kicked, pulled under the water and swum over – often all at once! Due to the large numbers taking part in this race, it meant the field never really thinned out like it does normally, and every turn around the buoys was survival of the fittest! I did manage to settle into a rhythm and even managed to stay on course pretty well for once. With no black line to follow on the bottom of the lake like in a pool, open water swimming is very much about sighting of the buoys and not getting disorientated as well as swimming fast.

I had a solid swim and was glad to be out of the water and running to T1 for the bike leg. I had plenty of time on the run to my bike to get hat, goggles and wetsuit half off by the time I got to my bike. I wriggled the rest of the way out, got out of transition and onto the bike and straight up the hill. Thankfully, I had put the bike in the correct gear but I saw a few people struggling with this.

In non-elite triathlon, the practice of drafting on the bike is illegal – there must be ten metres between your front wheel and the back wheel of the bike in front unless you are overtaking, and you have thirty seconds to complete this manoeuvre. Sitting behind another cyclist means you need less effort to maintain the same speed

(the advantage of the peloton in the Tour de France).

Motorcycle referees marshal the course. If caught you must spend six minutes in a penalty box at the end of the bike leg. Despite this, many triathletes persist in drafting, and it's one of the biggest contentious areas in the sport. There certainly was plenty of drafting on the course but thankfully, the referees were doing a good job and I saw many getting caught (including a Kiwi girl who was sitting on my wheel for some time).

I pushed hard on the bike and, though I felt I may pay for it on the run, I enjoyed it and felt strong. I made sure I took on all my planned nutrition – one and a half energy bars, two gels and two bottles of energy drinks and all to soon I was heading back into transition and getting ready for the really hard part – the run.

Run course

I became aware on my second lap of the bike that the run course had very little flat sections – it was either gentle uphill, gentle downhill and one very steep uphill at the end of each lap. The sun had also broken through the clouds. With this in mind, I took the first lap relatively easy and felt strong through laps one and two. The support along the course was fantastic and it seemed every nation was cheering the Irish on. I was able to cheer on some of the Irish lads during the run too as well as the GB competitors we had met at the airport.

As I headed onto the third and final lap, I was tired but knew I had a pretty solid race so far. I pushed on as much as I could and my legs went with half a lap to go. No matter at that stage as I was almost home and the adrenaline gets you there. I summoned up a final push to overtake another Kiwi girl just before the line. I had finished in 4 hours 55 minutes and 56 seconds - 9th in my age group and ten minutes behind the bronze medallist. All in all, I was pretty happy with that as my aim was top ten, and don't feel I could have raced better.

We met up with the rest of the Irish Team in the pub that night once we had slept, eaten and cleaned up a bit. One of the younger lads had finished 4th in his age group (20 – 24) and I am sure he will be one to watch in the future. It was a fantastic experience and although the training was sometimes hard going, it was worth it. As I write this, I hope to continue doing triathlons again next summer and depending on work commitments, maybe race for Ireland again.

Gill Edmondson (nee Keane)



Parade of International flags, Ballyhaunis Summer Festival 2007.

Ballyhaunis Bridge Club

Ballyhaunis Bridge Club meets every Tuesday and Thursday night at 8pm in The Hazel. New members are always welcome.

The major competitions played in the club during the year are: The Murphy Cup, Credit Union, Bank of Ireland, AIB Bank and Ulster Bank. Many thanks to all the sponsors.

The club hosted a special event in November 2007 in honour of the late Angela Joyce who was a very dedicated member of our club. Players from local clubs attended on the night as did members of the Joyce family.

The club ended the season by playing for the President's Prize over two nights. Our President, Justina Lyons, organised a very enjoyable dinner and presentation of prizes to the winners. On behalf of the club members many thanks to Justina for a very enjoyable function which was held in the Billabong Restaurant.

Officers for 2008: President, Fiona Prenty; Vice President, Alacoque McManus; Treasurer, Ina Freyne; Secretary, Maureen Hunt.



Back L-R: Ina Freyne, Justina Lyons.
Front L-R: Fiona Prenty and Michael Mahoney.

Br. Paul Carney, O.S.F.

Br. Paul was born James Carney in Ballindrehid, Ballyhaunis in the year 1844. He received his early education in Ballyhaunis and on the 4th June 1869 he joined the Franciscan Monastery in Achill to commence his noviciate as a Franciscan Brother. He qualified as a National teacher at the Teacher Training College in Dublin and returned to teach in Achill Franciscan National School in Bunnacurry. He taught in Achill until 1895 when he was transferred to Errew Franciscan Monastery near Castlebar where he taught at the National School.

During Br. Paul's stay in Achill he witnessed many local historic events including the laying of the foundation stone for the Viaduct Bridge at Achill Sound on 20th July 1885, the first train to Achill on 16th June 1895 and the burning of Valley House on the 6th October 1894. He gave twenty-five years of dedicated service with the Franciscan Brothers to the youth of Achill at a very difficult time for the people who were recovering from the effects of the famine.

In 1896, Br. Paul was asked by the Archbishop of Tuam to lead a questing mission to the USA to raise funds for the building of the new Church in Castlebar. On 25th September 1896 he left Errew for the USA and reached New York on 2nd October. Over the next two years he travelled from New York to Pittsburg, Chicago, Cleveland and Philadelphia raising funds for the completion of Castlebar Church, and returned to Errew on 20th October 1898 with, as he describes, "their mission accomplished".

He moved to Mountbellew Monastery in 1899 where a new seminary was being built at a cost of £3,000, and Br. Paul was again asked to go on a questing mission to the USA to raise funds for this project. He set sail on 8th October from Queenstown and arrived in New York on the 14th October. He then travelled by train, a journey of 4,000 miles, over a period of six days and seven nights, to San Francisco, and spent until August 1901 fundraising along the west coast of the USA raising in excess of £1,700 towards the construction of the seminary in Mountbellew.

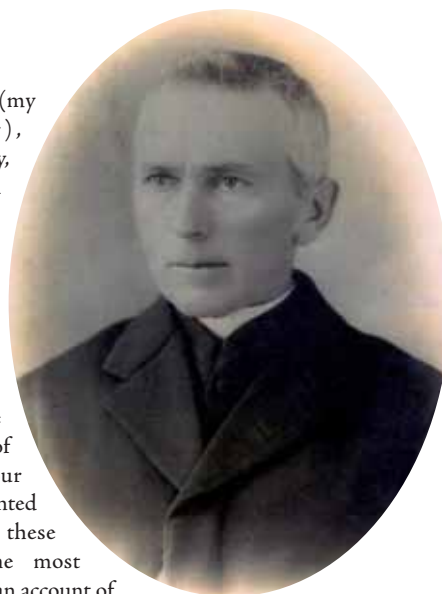
On 17th January 1902 he moved to Granlahan Monastery to assist as teacher and to also assist in clearing an outstanding debt. To this end, he undertook a questing mission to England and Scotland which lasted for four months and which he describes as a "successful mission" raising sufficient funds to clear the outstanding debt. In 1904 he moved to Roundstone Monastery but was to return again to Granlahan in September 1916 for a period of two years. By this time

his niece (my Grandmother), Honoria Murphy, had got married in Currisloustia to Michael McDonnell.

During Br. Paul's time in Achill and during his many travels he became a keen observer of human behaviour and has documented many of these observations, the most interesting being an account of events that took place in Achill after

the 6th October 1894 when a fire caused the destruction of the Valley House, and James Lynchehaun was subsequently charged and convicted with the attempted murder of the owner of the Valley House, Mrs. Angela MacDonnell. Br. Paul's narrative on this subject was used by the late James Carney as the basis for his book "The Playboy and the Yellow Lady", which was published in 1986 by Poolbeg. The author comments that he believed that J. M. Synge had modelled his play "The Playboy of the Western World" on this Lynchehaun/Valley House incident. A film directed by Cathal Black, "Love and Rage", and shot on location in Achill in 1998, is also based on these events.

Br. Paul spent his final years in Roundstone Monastery writing his memoirs which reflect on a monastic way of life, and where he recalls, for the benefit of his nieces, nephews and cousins, the excitement of his extensive travels, but does not seek in any way the limelight for his many achievements or the improved circumstances which he and his fellow Brothers delivered for the benefit of the youth at the various Monasteries that he served in. A long and fruitful life came to an end when Br. Paul passed to his eternal reward on the 24th October 1928.



Happy Memories of Gurteen

1950 was an exciting year for me. I finally had a mother and father through adoption – Nellie (Helen) Mulrennan of Gurteen and Myles Bohannon of Lynn, Massachusetts – became my family at last. They were willing to bring a skinny, ‘plain Jane’ into their hearts and home. That year of transition I constantly heard about “home” (Gurteen, Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo, Ireland). It was decided that we would go “home” to Ireland by steamship, leaving from New York. Leaving by train from Boston, our steamer trunks were sent ahead. The train ride to New York, then a cab ride to the pier, it seemed to me that the ocean liner was taller than anything I had ever seen. Overwhelming does not adequately describe my feelings. When passengers asked me where I was going, I would say “Uncle Tom’s (Mulrennan) farm”. From the get go Uncle Tom and I were bonded together. He thought there was no one like me.

Memories that I have of our time together

Sleeping on a cot in the bedroom of a thatched cottage with my feet sticking out, Uncle Tom would reach through the slightly open door and tickle my feet with a broom, and I would jump up to help with the early morning chores. Before I left I could squirt milk into a cat’s mouth from across the barn. Riding in the horse and cart to Holywell Bog to help Uncle Tom by footing the turf which he would throw up on the banks. What a backbreaking job, but I didn’t mind. He always made me feel like family. When I was with Tom, how secure I felt sitting with him in the bog eating hard-boiled eggs and bread and drinking tea. The potatoes had to be taken care of, and, oh, how heavy was the potato sprayer on my back and suddenly it would become lighter. I, now, am sure Tom was lifting it up to make things easier.

Since the time I joined my parents I was Irish and most kids took ballet and tap. I took Irish step dancing. Eventually, I and three other girls danced exclusively for Cardinal Cushing of Boston, Massachusetts. When I came to Ireland (about 11 years old), at night, out would come the accordion and I would dance. How proud Uncle Tom was that his niece could dance. I entered a Feis at Old Head and, in preparation, I took dancing lessons from Seamus Ford in Ballyhaunis and learned the St. Patrick’s Day Dance.

I loved ice in my drinks but there was no refrigeration so Uncle Tom introduced me to Dinjo, the butcher in the town, who made ice for me every day and I would bike into Ballyhaunis and get the ice and rush back “home” before it melted, and put it into the orange drink. I had to get used to not having pop with carbonation.

Do you know what a clucker is? (A hen who clucks all day and doesn’t lay an egg). I didn’t, but one day I passed a basket with a cover and I heard chickens clucking so I let them out. It took Tom a few days to recapture them and he never got mad with me even when I went to feed the pigs and they got by me and again the chase was on to put things back in order. When we had to leave I hung on tightly to Uncle Tom’s arm and cried all the way to Cobh. We communicated often by mail and I was able to see him a few more times in his life.

In touch frequently

To end this tale, I just want to let you know that cemeteries are not a place I go to visit much because I feel if you are good to people when they are alive, you don’t have to visit a piece of stone to remember. Having said that, I have to relate this story: I returned to Gurteen in 2001 along with my cousin Maryalice McLaughlin (Nora Mulrennan of Gurteen was her mother-in-law) and she thought it would be a



*Myles, Helen (nee Mulrennan) and Kathleen Bohannon and children.
Taken in February 1979*

nice thing for me to visit Uncle Tom’s grave, and when I found it, I stood there crying like a baby. Oh how I miss him.

To say I was contented with the love of my new family, Aunt Bridie (Tom’s Wife), Theresa and Jack Farrell, Sean and Tommy (of Began) is an understatement. Seamus Mulrennan and Marie Finnerty are in touch frequently. I always feel Irish and I am a Mulrennan.

Kathleen Bohannon Perkins, 135 Cox Head Rd., Phippsburg, Maine 04562, USA.



Photograph taken in 1935 of Michael and Alice Caulfield, Upper Main St., with their children Tommy (California) and Rosaleen (New York)

Interesting Extracts

Brief Personal Notes on Parochial and Other Passing Event

One of the items that came to the attention of the Annagh Magazine Society in recent times is a typed manuscript entitled: "Interesting extracts - Brief Personal Notes on Parochial and Other Passing Events, by Michael F. Waldron, Knox St., Ballyhaunis, 7th February 1953". It's a document running to sixty-seven pages listing events and occurrences relating to Ballyhaunis and district in different years on each calendar date from 1st January to 31st December.

It was compiled by Dr. Michael F. Waldron, BA, LLd who was a prominent citizen of Ballyhaunis in the first half of the twentieth century. He was born in 1876 in Knox St., son of Thomas Waldron, a tailor (originally from Brackloon South) and Sarah Fitzmaurice (from Togher). The initial 'F' in his name stood for 'Fitzmaurice' his mother's maiden surname. In later years he was sometimes referred to as 'Michael P.A.' in reference to his brother P.A. who was a well-known local school-teacher, poet and writer.

A graduate of University College Galway, Michael F. taught at Cambridge University for some time until the 'Troubles' when he returned home. He had an interest in many topics ranging from local history and archaeology, to politics, religion and sport, horticulture and amateur dramatics. He worked as a correspondent for a number of national and local newspapers during his lifetime, and was a close friend of the late Mick O'Connell by whom he was succeeded in the Connaught Telegraph.

It seems Michael F. kept a diary in which he recorded events and occurrences in his own life and in the town and surrounding district. The whereabouts of his diaries is not now known, but sometime in early 1953 (or probably before), he decided to extract from these all notable happenings for each calendar date, and so this document was created.

A wide range of events are mentioned including cultural, political, religious and sporting events of local, national and international importance; local deaths; instances of extraordinary weather; as well as reports of films he saw and the many books he read. There are eleven listings from the nineteenth century, a small number from the first three decades of the twentieth century – mostly from 1921, 22 and 23 – and the majority from 1938 to 1953. There is a useful chronology of local happenings during the War of Independence and Civil War.

As it would be a pity just to extract some of the entries the document will be reprinted here in full (with the exception only of references to books he read and films he went to see, which have been omitted to save space; they may feature in a future instalment). This issue's instalment includes calendar dates from 1st January to 30th April, with further instalments in the coming years.

January

1st - 1941 - First Ceilidhe in Parochial Hall. 1945 - Mild, fine day. 1949 - New Year opened with wintry weather, snow, frost, sleet, hail. 1951 - Severe frost, thick fog last night; snow today. 1952 - Year opens intensely cold, fine periods, rather heavy snowfall; Norah Fitzmaurice (Togher) died at brother David's, Ballinlough. 1953 - Last night amateur band played out the old year and in the new.

2nd - 1903 - First production of "For Ireland's Honour". 1944 - Bernard Lyons, late of Bekan, died at his residence, Dublin.

3rd - 1932 - Miss Nora Sweeney, Knox St., died. 1945 - Willie Biesty (76), Main St., died.

4th - 1942 - Prayers requested for Michael Lavan ('Miko'), died U.S.A. 1943 - Mrs. Donnellan (Paddy's mother), Clare Road, died. 1947 - Michael Moran, Carrowedan, killed by fall from cart at

railway station. 1950 - Michael J. Fitzmaurice, Devlis, died at Bolton, Lancashire, accident. 1951 - Willie Devaney, Crossard, died at Upper Main St.. 1953 - Last night intense frost.

5th - 1942 - T. Donnellan (Paddy's father), Clare Road, died. 1949 - Arctic conditions continue; travelling difficult.

6th - 1939 - Pat Tully (Devlis, late Derrynacong) died; Miss Anne Grealey, Knox St., died. 1947 - Violent storm last night.

7th - 1940 - Edward A. Biesty, Knox St., died. 1943 - While passing through to visit friends from outside the town, Mrs. Sabina Mulkeare, Park, Cloonfad, fell dead on coming out of Peter Hannon's shop, where she had been making some purchases.

8th - 1922 - Henry's dance, great fun, large party. 1938 - Eleven silver coins (Henry VIII & Elizabeth) handed in by B. Jordan, Loughglynn. 1939 - Mrs. Catherine Walsh (Tommy's wife), Upper Main St., died. 1953 - Consulted about the history of Ballyhaunis Brass Band which disintegrated in 1891, and a suggestion that a new brass band be formed in town.

9th - 1933 - Mrs. Martin Devine died aged 80 years. 1942 - Mrs. Biesty (Rodger Folliard's sister), Carrowkeel, died yesterday.

10th - 1943 - Pat Finn ('Crop'), Fair Green, died.

11th - 1931 - Outbreak of flu epidemic noticed. 1942 - Important meeting of Parish Council (Rev. G. J. Prendergast) in chair: discussion on allotments, growing of rye and forthcoming meeting in Castlebar (Mr. Aiken's). 1948 - Clann na Poblachta meeting (Durcan, Hughes, &c.). 1949 - Mrs. Coyne (Sally Waldron), Devlis, died. 1951 - Press announcement of Chanc. Prendergast's becoming Archdeacon.

12th - 1938 - Mrs. Fitzgerald (Mary Glavey) died rather suddenly. 1940 - John Freeley (Main St.), Pat's brother, died. 1953 - Sister M. Colomba (Michael M. Waldron's daughter) died at convent of Mercy, Tuam.

13th - 1925 - Miss Anna Judge, Clare St., died. 1937 - Mrs. Moran (guard's wife) died. 1948 - Fine Gael meeting (Senator Ruane &c.); Fianna Fail meeting (Regan).

14th - 1934 - P. Campbell, Abbey St., died. 1943 - Mrs. Grealy, Drimbane, died in Galway. 1944 - Announcement of death on 13th Jan. of Fr. Martin Hannon in Nigeria.

15th - 1933 - General election meeting: Pres. De Valera present; Cold, frosty night. 1939 - Mrs. Burns N.T. (90 years), Coolnafarna, died. 1948 - Attended (with Paddy Forrie) to graves and planted bulbs.

16th - 1940 - Address and presentation to Rev. Martin Kenny on his departure to Nigeria, at meeting in McGarry's Hall.

17th - 1938 - I suggested that Beul Áth hAmhnais should be Baile nAmhnas or Baile namhnas.

18th - 1939 - Miss Katie Morley, Knox St., died in Dublin; Mrs. Griffin, Devlis, died.

19th - 1921 - Nine young men arrested. 1940 - Death of Martin Loughlin in Castlebar notified. 1945 - Fierce gales last night followed by heavy snow. 1947 - Paddy Carney (25), Ballindrehid, died. 1948 - Heavy snowfall last night and this morning.

20th - 1932 - Mrs. Carney (James' mother), Ballindrehid, died. 1945 - Heavy snowfall, hard frost.

21st - 1945 - Intense frost and snowballing. 1950 - Severe frost last night, bright sunshine today.

22nd - 1932 - Tim Fitzmaurice, Togher, died in Birmingham. 1945 - Intense frost last night; Miss O'Brien (Mrs. J. Glavey's sister), Clare Road, died.

23rd - 1923 - Peter Fitzmaurice, Bridge St., died. 1925 - Michael Fitzmaurice, Togher, died. 1945 - No market owing to heavy snow and frost.

24th - 1933 - General election. 1944 - Johnny Kenny (Broddy) drowned on Ballinlough road. 1945 - Still snowing, intense frost last night. 1948 - Michael J. Freeley, Island (Pat's brother) died.

Interesting Extracts *continued...*

1953 - Mrs. P. J. Caulfield (Nora Grealey), Main St., died.

25th - 1945 - Heavy frost and snow, all water pipes frozen

26th - 1918 - Mrs. Susan Fallon died. 1937 - Tim Flatley (ex N.T.), Coolnafarna, died; Mrs. Conor Flynn, Main St., died. 1945 - Last night intensely cold: worst spell for years. 1951 - Maura Meleady (3rd daughter of James Meleady, Devlis), died in Castlebar.

27th - 1936 - Bernard Hoare (ex D.I. R.I.C.) died suddenly. 1945 - Frost and snow continue. 1950 - Miko Flynn (son of Conor Flynn, Main St.), died in Philadelphia. 1952 - Severe frost and heavy snowfall last night and this morning.

28th - 1927 - Violent gale causing much damage. 1941 - Mary Anne Mannion, Drimbane, died. 1945 - Intense frost, still snowing. 1948 - Mickey Dillon (Parker's brother) died. 1951 - Michael Griffin, Clare Street, died.

29th - 1925 - Michael Quirke ("Rory"), Crimean veteran, died aged 106 years. 1945 - Intense cold last night, slight thaw sets in; Patrick Waldron (son of Martin, Tavnagh), died at Grallagh. 1949 - James Carney, Knox St. (brother of Michael, Eddie, Fr. Carney) died.

30th - 1940 - Mrs. Flatley, ex N.T. (Kate Hannon), Knox St., died. 1937 - John Deasey, weaver and seanachie, Derrynacong, died. 1945 - Frank Swift (Kincora Lodge, Foxhill), died. 1948 - News of assassination of Mahatma Gandhi (India).

31st - 1932 - Mrs. Tim Keane died. 1944 - A young lad named O'Shea (9) knocked down by lorry near Post Office and killed. 1948 - Severe thunder, lightning and downpour early this morning. 1952 - Arctic weather, frost, snow, hail, cold rain.

February

1st - 1937 - Miss Sarah A. Waldron died (b. June 14, 1879).

2nd - 1938 - Mrs. ("Mike") Waldron died at Knockbrack aged 87. 1947 - Stormy all day yesterday, blizzard and snowdrifts last night.

3rd - 1943 - Miss Lily Gilmore, Knox St., died rather suddenly. 1948 - Richard Tarpey, ex N.T., Bekan, died. 1951 - Frost, rain, sleet, snow galore - cold, cold.

4th - 1934 - Eamonn (Ned) Mullen, Abbey St., died. 1943 - James Mannion, Foxhill, died. 1946 - Edward Fitzgerald (Snr.), Bridge St., died. 1948 - General election polling.

5th - 1922 - First production of "Let Erin Remember". 1932 - Tommy Galvin died. 1942 - Patrick E. Veldon, late of Main St., died at Cottages, Cherryfield.

6th - 1937 - John Judge, The Cottages, Devlis, died. 1940 (Shrove Tuesday) - had three teeth extracted by Mr. Mangan. 1951 (Shrove Tuesday) - heavy snowfall, bitterly cold. 1952 - King George VI died in sleep in Sandringham (aged 56).

7th - 1945 - Miss Mulkeen, sister of the murdered Knock sisters, died at Main Street. 1948 - Mrs. Forbes (advanced age), Devlis, died.

8th - 1938 - Patrick Freeley, Scrigg, brought in chert arrow-head and reported finding deer's antlers and bones in a drain. 1942 - First annual meeting of original Parochial Hall committee (Fr. Prendergast in the chair): review of work and statement of accounts submitted. 1944 - Tommy Caulfield, Castlereagh (P. J.'s brother) died.

9th - 1937 - Miss Comber (Church St.) died.

10th - 1952 - Miss Mary Crean (late Ballinvilla) died in Dublin, buried in Ballinvilla.

11th - 1919 - Very Rev. Dominick Nolan O.S.A. died. 1940 - Mrs. Murray (Brigid Freeley, Pat's and John's sister), Main St., died. 1945 - Mrs. Kate Connolly, Main St., died.

12th - 1931 - Mrs. Pat Prenty died. 1951 - After 48 days on strike, banks resume work.

13th - 1932 - James Lyons (Commercial Hotel) died. 1948 - 'Sharkey' Devaney (jockey &c.) died at Castlebar.

15th - 1924 - Michael Rattigan died. 1945 - Miss Gilmore (87), Abbeyquarter, died. 1949 - Mrs. Pat Donnellan, Clare Street, died.

16th - 1930 - Mrs. Dillon-Leetch died. 1932 - General election. 1933 - James Waldron's new hall (Clare Street) opened.

17th - 1931 - Mrs. Pat Gilmore died. 1942 (Shrove Tuesday) - Ceilidhe and first Question Time in Parochial Hall. 1945 - Patrick Harty, Customs and Excise (husband of Eithne Fitzmaurice), died in Cork. 1950 - Josephine Waldron, Drimbane (Phillip's daughter), died, buried at Feakle, Co. Clare. 1951 - Cattle fair, middling; arctic weather: rain, sleet, snow, hail; Pat Healy, P.C., Holywell (advanced age) died.

18th - 1941 - Mrs. Thomas Kennedy, Devlis, died. 1941 - Johnny Goonery (late G.S. railway), died at Castlebar. 1944 - Patrick J. Kennedy killed in London air raid. 1948 - J. A. Costello, S.C., elected Taoiseach.

19th - 1921 - Rev. Martin McEvilly, C.C., died. 1941 - Mrs. Margaret Cassidy, Tooraree, died.

20th - 1924 - Sister Elizabeth (Annie Waldron) died in Dublin. 1947 - Tom Jordan, Knox St., died.

21st - 1946 - Tommy Walsh, servant at Dr. Crean's for 73 years, died. 1947 - Jack Costello (85), Barrack St., died in Castlebar.

22nd - 1890 - Thomas Waldron, Knox St. (father), died. 1923 - Brisk attack for about 3 hours (midnight to 3 a.m.). 1950 - Michael Anthony Dyer N.T., Brackloon, died in Roscommon hospital.

23rd - 1924 - Pat Joe Devine died at Ballyvary. 1937 - Richard Owens, Carrowreagh, died at Castlebar. 1940 - Thomas Dalton, Devlis, E.S.B. collector, died. 1944 - Funeral of Maurice Mullins to New Cemetery; death of Dr. Conor Maguire, Claremorris.

24th - 1947 - Intense frost continuing, heavy snowfall last night; Miss Anne Grealy, Main St., merchant, died; Willie Lyons (Commercial), Clare Road, died in Swinford. 1948 - Pat Barrett died in Castlebar.

25th - 1947 - Blizzard last night and this morning: snow 2 ft.; no market.

26th - 1947 - Arctic weather, town snowbound, supplies cut off, transport nil; owing to snow drifts, remains of Miss Anne Grealy and Willie Lyons had to be drawn in a hand-cart to cemetery; Mrs. Anne Hopkins, Barrack St., died. 1950 - Severe frost last night; slight snowfall this evening.

27th - 1939 - Anthony J. Morley (75), Clagnagh, died suddenly. 1946 - Laurence Reilly, Main St., died. 1947 - Remains of Mrs. Anne Hopkins, Barrack St., and Mrs. Austin Waldron, Crossard, were drawn to cemetery on hand-cart and sled with great difficulty owing to snow; remains of Michael Hurley, Clooncan, brought in for burial from Gortaganny church, on a sled dragged through snow drifts. 1952 - Ash Wednesday: fine, dry, but very cold.

28th - 1939 - Miss Katie Snee, N.T., Clare St., died. 1943 - Thomas Plunkett, Curries (83) died suddenly in the Abbey.

March

1st - 1942 - Larry Kilroy (Main Street) died.

2nd - 1924 - Paddy Walsh shot dead accidentally at Mannin.

4th - 1921 - Very Rev. Canon Canning, P.P., died aged 75 years; for 28 years (1893-1921) P.P. of Ballyhaunis. 1942 - Maggie Grogan, spinster (late Farragher's Hotel) died. 1947 - Mrs. Prendergast (Mary Anne Waldron), ex N.T., died yesterday. 1951 - Visitation, Confirmation and address by his Grace Most Rev. Dr. Walsh.

5th - 1936 - Mrs. Margaret Cunningham, Carrowrea, died aged 94. 1939 - Visited (with Fr. Carr, O.S.A., J. T. Smyth and J. A.

Interesting Extracts *continued...*

Gilmore) Cahreen (Disert Bibart, Dominican ruins on Flanagan's land, Crossard). 1947 - Mrs. Pat Grogan (Waldron's Terrace) died. 1949 - Lord and Lady Dillon, Sir Robert and Lady called; enquiries re burial place of 12th Viscount

6th - 1936 - Read paper at Vincent de Paul conference on Dr. McHale. 1947 - Nurse Rose Waldron de Moncho died. 1948 - After over two weeks of quite summer weather, rain fell today. 1951 - Rain and heavy snow showers – cold – after some fine days.

7th - 1922 - Patrick Cassidy, Crossard, shot (seriously wounded). 1950 - Lovely Summer weather for some days past.

8th - 1923 - Civil Guards arrive; brisk attack from about 10 p.m. to 12 p.m. 1926 - Mrs. Pat Smyth died. 1950 - Jim Jordan, Lecarrow, died suddenly; Miss Meleady, Devlis, died suddenly (aged 84). 1951 - Frost and heavy snow last night; arctic weather today.

10th - 1923 - Intense attack lasting over an hour beginning about 11.30 p.m. 1933 - Andrew Johnston, Foxhill, died.

12th - 1933 - Father Collieran, P.P., opened water supply and blessed the well.

13th - 1938 - Inaugural C.Y.M.S. meeting. 1946 - Mrs. Paddy Smyth (Mona Dillon) died in Dublin.

14th - 1950 - Spell of beautiful weather broken by cold rain.

15th (The Ides of March) - 1922 - Patrick Cassidy shot dead in Galway hospital. 1947 - Arctic conditions continue; blizzard last night and this morning. 1949 - Received a lengthy and interesting letter from Lord Dillon. 1952 - Raid on house – money, clothing &c. stolen.

16th - 1931 - Davy Freeley (Pat's brother) died.

17th - 1933 - Race committee inaugural dance. 1938 - Present at Dr. Hays' lecture in Castlebar on "Mayo in '98". 1940 - Palm Sunday. 1942 - Second Question Time (Father Jennings, C.C. compere). 1943 - Public parade – Boy Scouts, L.D.F., L.S.F., Men and Women Red Cross. 1946 - Fine lecture (Parochial Hall), Chanc. Prendergast presiding, on the life of Michael Davitt, by Very Rev. Dr. Stenson; Dan Madden (chauffeur), Church St., died in Castlebar. 1950 - Cissy Dillon, Abbeyquarter, died. 1951 - Mrs. James Caulfield (Annie Giblin), Abbeyquarter, died.

18th - 1923 - Brisk attack starting about 1.30 a.m. and lasting about an hour. 1938 - Mrs. Stenson, Knox St., died. 1940 - Paddy Mulligan died.

19th - 1930 - Thomas Smyth, Abbey St. (Pat's brother), died. 1940 - Mike Flatley (newsagent), Main St., died.

20th - 1948 - Paddy Phillips (son of Johnny), Main St., died; Grand National – Sheila's Cottage, 1; First of the Dandies, 2; Cromwell, 3.

21st - 1924 - Sergt. Mullan died. 1928 - Rev. Michael Hughes, C.C., died of typhoid contracted while ministering to typhoid patients in town. 1944 - Martin Morris (84) died at Knox St. 1950 - Canon Stephen Walsh, P.P. Dunmore (1904-11, C.C. Ballyhaunis), died in Tuam.

22nd - 1928 - Tommy M. Caulfield died. 1943 - Johnny Conway, Bridge St., died suddenly in Dublin.

23rd - 1938 - 1st meeting of C.Y.M.S. study circle. 1943 - V. de Paul Entertainment and 3rd Question Time.

24th - 1931 - Mrs. Coyne (Gurteen), died aged 105 (6). 1940 - Easter Sunday.

25th - 1940 - Mrs. Patrick J. Tarpey, Knox St., West, died. 1950 - Grand National, Freebooter, 1; Wot-no-sun, 2; Achton Major, 3.

26th - 1948 - Good Friday: lovely summer-like weather; Fr. Horan, C.C. Aghamore preached. 1949 - Grand National – Russian Hero, 1; Royal Mount 3; Roimond, 2. 1950 - Passion Sunday – lovely sunshine; James Duffy's circus. 1952 - Beautiful day – Lincoln – Phariza, 33 to 1, 1; Streatly, 6 to 1, 2; La Princess, 25 to 1, 3.

27th - 1928 - Kate Forkan died. 1941 - Vocational schools

burned down (T. Forde's). 1941 - (Miss) Kathleen Treston, Cottages, died. 1947 - Hugh(ie) Flatley, Barrack St., (late of Tavrane) died.

28th - 1925 - Mrs. D. Giblin died aged 99 years.

29th - 1921 - Const. Stephenson shot and seriously wounded – a night of terror. 1947 - Grand National – Caughoo, 1; Lough Conn, 2; Kami, 3.

30th - 1921 - Military activity, business suspended, markets and fairs prohibited, curfew from 7 p.m. General exodus. 1930 - New organ first recital. 1946 - Mrs. Paddy Mulligan, Barrack St., died suddenly. 1951 - John Canon Neary, D.D., Cong (native of Ballyhaunis) died.

31st - 1921 - Deputation of merchants to military in connection with suspension of fairs and markets. 1939 - Thomas H. Gillespie (Castlebar) Ed. Con. Tel. died. 1950 (31?) - Thomas Brennan (23) Clare St., electrocuted in Manchester – 1950.

April

1st - 1921 - Michael Coen, Lecarrow, shot; Sean Corcoran shot at Crossard. 1935 - Willie Eaton died. 1936 - Michael N. Grealy died in Washington (buried in New York). 1944 - Fall of snow. 1948 - Yesterday cold, windy, very heavy rain, last night stormy. 1951 - Patrick J. Neary (82) died (T. Forde's father-in-law).

2nd - 1932 - Erection of electric standards. 1947 - Memorial to P. A. erected in new cemetery.

3rd - 1922 - Const. Crannagh shot (dead) and Const. Butler (wounded seriously). 1931 - Mrs. Johnny Kenny died (Good Friday). 1949 - John, Park. & Timothy Regan (brothers – pugilists) left for Boston.

4th - 1920 - Raid on Revenue Office. Sergt. Carroll & Const. Ryan wounded.

5th - 1895 - Michael Lavan died. 1940 - Fr. Jarlath, O.Cist. visits Ballyhaunis (interesting prediction); English Grand National Day (Bogskar, Mackmoffet, Gold Arrow). 1946 - English Grand National – Lovely Cottage (33 to 1), Jack Finlay, Prince Regent.

6th - 1933 - Joseph Crean died.

7th - 1942 - V. Rev. James P. Conry (Canon) son of late J. M. Conry, died at Warrenpoint. 1943 - Mrs. Tommy O'Malley (Maggie Jane Fitzmaurice), Barrack St., died. 1944 - Good Friday – Fr. Egan (Passionist) preached. 1951 - Grand National – Nickel Coin (1), Royal Tan (2), Derrinstown (3).

8th - 1949 - Tom Creggs, Hazelhill, died suddenly.

9th - 1938 - Visited Orlar ruins (1430) with Prof. Butler. 1950 - Easter Sunday: very inclement, cold rain, hail, wind.

10th - 1938 - Palm Sunday: enrolment of C.Y.M.S. members in St. Patrick's church by Rev. S. J. Prendergast.

11th - 1935 - Michael McGreal, Ballindrehid, died. 1936 - Micky Walsh (15) died in Galway hospital; Mrs. Kate O'Reilly (Patrick's wife), Main St., died. 1950 - Visited Chancellor Prendergast, home from hospital, in great form. 1951 - Mrs. Willie Forkan, Knox St., died.

12th - 1923 - Attack for about an hour starting at 12.30 a.m. 1936 - Luke Grealy, Drimbane, died; Choral Society produce "The Country Girl". 1940 - Mrs. Martin Morris, Upper Main St., died. 1942 - Prayers requested for Jim Devine; died in Chicago. 1945 - U.S.A. President – Franklin Delano Roosevelt – died suddenly.

13th - 1926 - Thomas Raftery, Greenwood, died in Galway hospital from injuries got at football match in Balla. 1938 - Had a talk with Rodger Folliard (O.A.P.) and he told me he knew several men (Hunt, Folliard, &c.) who had worked in making the road from Ballyhaunis to Charlestown under Charles Strickland (Lord Dillon's agent). Said it must be between 80 and 90 years ago (1858-68). 1941 - Easter Sunday – Local Defence Force display.

14th - 1918 - First Anti-Conscription meeting. 1936 - Fatal

Interesting Extracts *continued...*

accident to Paddy Smyth's son (Michael – 3 years). 1942 - Fire in Boys' National School. 1946 - Mrs. O'Loughlin, Devlis (ex-Station Master's widow) died.

15th - 1903 - First Mayo Feis – artistic and industrial exhibition opened. 1945 - Visited Island Ogham Stone. 1946 - Thomas Fitzmaurice, Devlis, died in Castlebar.

16th - 1900 - First production of "Killarney". 1903 - Dr. Douglas Hyde delivered address at Mayo Feis. 1913 - Mrs. Sarah Waldron died. 1923 - Brief and sharp attack starting at 11.30 p.m.

17th - 1923 - (Tues.) Jack Morley, cattle dealer died this morning. 1940 - Patrick Cassidy (Golf Links), Culleen, died; Patrick Phillips (butcher), Main Street, died.

18th - 1935 - Delia Gilmore died (at Knock), Holy Thursday; Mrs. Jim Fleming died. 1938 - Mrs. Killeen (opposite church) died. 1941 - Mrs. Pat Waldron, Friary Gate, died. 1948 - Opening of McGarry's "Star" Cinema, Clare Road. 1952 - Mrs. M. Fitzmaurice (Frances Delaney), Devlis, died.

19th - 1940 - Bartley Lyons, Knockbrack, died.

20th - 1924 - Easter Sunday: meeting addressed by Messrs. Muldoon, Lynn, Hart, &c.; Anthony Curley wounded seriously. 1939 - Mrs. (Tom) Lavelle died.

21st - 1918 - Great anti-conscription demonstration, pledge signed; National Defence Committee elected; volunteers parade. 1936 - Very heavy snowfall. 1940 - Miss Mary A. Waldron (Central Hotel), died (Sun.). 1947 - Thady Kelly, Knox St., (Brickens – inquest), died.

22nd - 1939 - Austin Kelly, Holywell, died. 1943 - Michael Glavey, Knox St. (brother of Dr. Glavey, Castlereagh), died. 1944 - Ellen Lee, Church St., domestic servant, well known (over 86), died. 1945 - Visited Island Castle (Enda Lyons and Neil McGillicuddy).

23rd - 1918 - General suspension of business and public services. 1939 - Tommy Cooney, Main St., died. 1939 - John Hunt, ex R.I.C. (late of Logboy), died at Devlis. 1939 - Vincent de Paul concert (Máire Ní Scolaighe and Brian Hoban &c.). 1943 - Good Friday: after summery days, heavy cold showers. 1944 - Visited Greenwood cromlech with young Enda Lyons and Neil McGillicuddy.

24th - 1925 - Dispatched books to Galway University College. 1926 - John Judge, Clare St., died. 1938 - Eddie Byrne, Bridge St., died suddenly; Miss Kate Grealey, Knox St., died (81 yrs): At Dunmore C.Y.M.S. diocesan conference.

25th - 1943 - Easter Sunday – stormy, torrential rains; John T. Waldron, merchant, Knox Street, died (10.30 p.m.). 1950 - Very cold: rain, sleet, hail, snow.

26th - 1950 - Dr. MacAlister (archaeologist authority) died in Cambridge.

27th - 1928 - "Gondoliers" first produced in Ballyhaunis (Garvey's Amateur Castlebar Co.). 1937 - Mrs. Anne Greene, Main St., died. 1944 - Paper on "Rome" read by Mr. M. J. Egan, Solr. (C'bar) at V. de Paul Qr. Mtg.

28th - 1941 - Card party for first aid station at Dr. Smyth's.

29th - 1921 - Michael Curley's residence, Crossard, burnt to the ground by armed men. 1930 - Fr. Thomas Flanagan died suddenly in Dublin. 1943 - Pat Beirne, 5th witness at Knock Apparition Commission, aged 80, died. 1945 - Heavy showers of snow and hail. 1946 - Mrs. O'Higgins (Annie Carney), Fr. Griffin Road, Galway, died. 1951 - Michael Foudy, Bridge Street, egg-exporter &c., died suddenly.

30th - 1934 - James P. Caulfield died in Galway; Anew MacMaster's company (Under the Red Robe, Othello, Merchant of Venice and Romeo and Juliet). 1944 - Visited Holywell &c. with some lads. 1945 - Heavy snow showers this morning; Roger Folliard, Knox St., late Coolnaha, died aged 89; Very Rev. P. J. Murphy, P.P., Ballindine (sometime C.C. Ballyhaunis), died. 1950 - Funeral of Pat Waldron (the "King") 95 years, late of Leowe, died at Wexford.



L-R: Tommy Reilly, Peg McGovern, Annie Mitchell, Ned Grogan, Maggie Kelly. Taken in McGovern's house, Holywell, 1980s.



*Manchester Shamrocks Dancehall 1961
Dan Tarpey, Jim Finn and Teresa Tarpey (all Carrowkeel) with Tom Biesty, Pattenspark.*



St. Mary's N.S., Ballyhaunis, 1967

Back, L-R: John Culliney, Tommy Moran (R.I.P.), Jimmy Cribbin, Eamon Healy, John Cassidy, Andrew Waldron, Sean Biesty, Pearse Waldron. Front, L-R: Ted Webb (R.I.P.), Liam Connell, Pat Regan, Vincent McGrath, John Armstrong, Billy Lyons, John Coyne, Freddie Herr, J. T. Smyth.



Taken in Holywell, 1948. Tom Grogan with Padraic Tevnan (left), Hugh Curley and Michael Curley.



Mayo-Mens' Ball, Queens, New York, 2007.

L-R: Cllr. John Cribbin, Michael Regan (Chairman, Mayo-Mens' Association, formerly of Cloonbook), Henry Kenny (Chairman, Mayo County Council), Sen. Paddy Burke.



An Irish Summer

Taken in Ramelton, Co. Donegal. Owen and Conor O'Boyle, Gurteen.

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*Annagh would like to thank all its patrons, past and present.
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This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 30 horizontal black lines spaced evenly apart, typical of notebook paper. The lines extend across the entire width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There are no vertical lines, text, or other markings present.

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Notes

This image shows a full page of blank white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a guide for writing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



Taken on Main Street in the 1950s during a 'Rag Parade'

The Value of a Smile

It costs nothing, but creates much.

It enriches those who receive, without impoverishing those who give.

It happens in a flash and the memory of it sometimes lasts forever.

None are so rich that they can get along without it and none are so poor but are richer for a smile.

It creates happiness in the home, fosters good will in a business and is the countersign of friends.

Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed or stolen, for it is something that is no earthly good to anybody till it is given away!

And if it ever happens that some people should be too tired to give you a smile, why not leave one of yours?

For nobody needs a smile so much as those who have none left to give.

MAIN COVER of MAGAZINE

View of Ballyhaunis town, taken in September 2006, with Devils in the foreground, and looking towards the west. The front cover shows Devils and Cherryfield in the foreground with, the estates of Cherrivale, Abbeyvale, Station Rise and Cherryfield Cottages all evident. Towards the centre is the Friary and Priory, Bridge St., the Square, Knox Street, Main Street, Upper Main Street and Knock Road into the distance. The back cover shows a bit of the Galway Road, Esker Pines, Abbeyquarter and the Parish Cemetery with the railway line to Westport and Claremorris road around the centre, and Clare Road and Hazelhill further up.



Ballyhaunis Parish Magazine 30th Edition

Designed & Printed at KPS Colourprint (094) 9388231